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AH pays damages in breach of contract lawsuit

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

The Township of Algonquin Highlands paid an Ajax-based solid waste handling company more than \$70,000 in damages in a breach of contract lawsuit.

According to court documents obtained by the Times, in a decision on Dec. 7, 2018, Justice Bryan Shaughnessy of the Superior Court of Justice ruled in favour of Reaction Distributing Inc. in the lawsuit against Algonquin Highlands, the company suing the township after the township disqualified the company's bid on a contract. Those damages totalled \$71,063.60. The Township of Algonquin Highlands subsequently appealed

that ruling, and in May of 2019, its appeal was dismissed with the decision upheld.

According to the court documents, "The respondent [Reaction Distributing] submitted a tender for work to be done for the appellant [the township]. The respondent submitted its tender in a three-ring binder contained in a box. The box did not have the respondent's name or address on the outside of the box. It was one of the contractual requirements of the tender process that all tenders had to be submitted in a sealed envelope that had marked, on the outside, the company's name and return address."

The contract was for the supply and installation of waste compactors at the Dorset transfer station in 2015. The company took

see TOWNSHIP page 2

In search of foster parents

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

The Kawartha Haliburton Children's Aid Society is asking residents of Haliburton County, along with those of the City of Kawartha Lakes and Peterborough, to consider becoming foster parents.

"Please step forward and show children in our community that you are there and that you care for them," Jennifer Wilson, the society's executive director, said in a release. "These are community children – and the community shares responsibility for helping them in their time of crisis."

As the release indicates, children do best with minimal disruption to their lives, so the

goal is to keep them in their own communities where they can continue to attend their schools, partake in their regular activities, and be close to friends and family.

"Without local foster parents, many children and youth are placed in foster homes outside of their community – leaving them far away from people they love and the familiar supports and resources they rely on," Wilson said in the release. "This has even greater impact for children and elevates traumatic experiences for children during a very difficult time in their life – when they most need a sense of normal, close to the people they know and love."

Foster parents look after children for a temporary period, as the Children's Aid Society

see FOSTER page 5



Starting the new year right

Eleven-year-old Violet Humphries of Carnarvon takes a turn tobogganing down a hill on Jan. 1 in Minden. Violet was enjoying New Year's Day with friends during a birthday party./DARREN LUM Staff



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Township loses appeal of court decision

from page 1

issue with the disqualification, suing the township. The judge ultimately ruled the omission of the company’s name and address from the front of the box did not justify its bid being disqualified. The ruling also notes the disqualified bid was the lower of the two bids the township received for the job.

“The appellant disqualified the respondent’s tender as a consequence of this omission and awarded the contract for the work to the only other company that submitted a tender,” the court documents read. “The respondent sued the appellant for breach of contract. The trial judge found that the respondent’s tender was in substantial compliance with the tender requirements. The trial judge found that the respondent’s failure to include its name and return address was a mere irregularity. He thus found that the appellant’s disqualification of the respondent’s tender constituted a breach of contract. The trial judge found that the respondent had submitted the lowest bid for the work and would have been awarded the contract for the work if the appellant had evaluated the respondent’s tender. Consequently, the trial judge awarded the respondent its lost profit from its failure to be awarded the contract for the work.”

Reaction Distributing owner Larry Vine said his company had been in touch with the township leading up to the submission of the bid and the opening of tender documents.

“I sent a number of questions,” Vine told the *Times*, saying those answers were used to assist him in drawing up the paperwork.

“It was accepted by the township,” he said, adding a company rep was present when the tender documents were opened. “It was opened by the township.”

Vine told the paper it was about a week or so later that Reaction Distributing was informed it would be disqualified due to the omission of the company’s name and address from the front of the box.

Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt told the paper that the senior township staff member who was present on that day doesn’t agree with that version of events.

The tendering process allows municipalities to waive issues of non-compliance when it comes to following the bid procedure, something the township chose not to do.

“While the terms of the tender process permitted the ap-

pellant to waive any non-compliance, the appellant says that that term did not require it to waive any non-compliance,” the court documents read. “It says that the respondent clearly did not comply with the requirement to have its name and return address on the outside of the tender and therefore it was entitled to disqualify the respondent’s tender.

“The appellant raised three issues: (i) that the trial erred in finding a breach of contract in this situation; (ii) erred in finding that the appellant had not acted in good faith; and (iii) erred in finding that the respondent would have been awarded the contract for the work, if the appellant had considered its tender. At the hearing, the appellant chose not to pursue the third issue.

“We do not accept either of the other grounds advanced by the appellant,” the court documents continue. “On the first issue, the law is that substantial compliance is the test to be applied in considering tender requirements: *Double N Earthmovers Ltd. v. Edmonton (City)*, 2007 SCC 3 (CanLII), [2007] 1 S.C.R. 116. Consequently, and subject to the second issue, it was open to the trial judge to find that the respondent substantially complied with the tender requirements and thus the appellant’s failure to consider the respondent’s bid constituted a breach of contract.”

“On the second issue, the trial judge found that the appellant had not treated the respondent fairly and equally in reaching its conclusion to disqualify the respondent’s tender. The trial judge’s finding, in this regard, is a factual one that is not to be interfered with absent palpable and overriding error, of which there is none here. We would note, on this point, that the appellant did not place any evidence before the trial

judge as to the reasons why the appellant was not prepared to waive the non-compliance.”

In an email to the *Times*, Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt re-iterated the company had not fully complied with the tender requirements.

“The company didn’t fully comply with the contractual requirements of the tender submission and the tender was rejected, something that happens on occasion,” Moffatt wrote. “The company sued. The municipality sought to uphold its right to manage the requirements of its own tender process, a process which is not only clearly laid out ahead of time, but which is also intended to provide a fair, consistent and transparent playing field for all bidders. The courts didn’t agree.”

Moffatt told the paper the decision to appeal was made after discussions with the township’s legal counsel.

“After discussion with legal counsel, council supported an appeal,” she wrote in an email to the *Times*. “Ultimately, the courts didn’t support the municipality’s position which, in my opinion, sets up a damned either way scenario: if a municipality has to accept non-compliant bids, who’s to say the compliant bidders won’t sue for the same reason of perceived fairness? Adhering to firm requirements at the front end is meant to protect the integrity of the public process, and Algonquin Highlands stands firm on that.”

The contract for the job was awarded to the other bidder, Metro Compactor Service Inc., by Algonquin Highlands council in October of 2015 in the amount of \$208,248 plus HST.

The *Times* has submitted a request for the township’s legal costs for the lawsuit and the subsequent appeal.

Correction

The article “Event to highlight rail trail experiences,” published in the Dec. 23 edition of the *Minden Times* incorrectly referred to TAG as the Toronto to Algonquin Gateway. The name of the organization is Toronto-Algonquin Greenway. An event based on stories about rail trails in the county and beyond is happening at the Fish Hatchery on Sunday, Jan. 19 starting at 4:30 p.m. and includes a light dinner. For ticket information, email pamela.marsales@gmail.com or call 705-457-4767.



All downhill from here

Minden minister Max Ward uses his classic toboggan to take a turn on Wednesday, Jan. 1 down a hill in Minden. Ward was with his children and wife, attending a birthday party./DARREN LUM Staff



Zaphod Cohrs takes a tumble while tobogganing in Minden. /DARREN LUM Staff

Senior YOGA Classes



Tuesday evenings 5pm-6pm
at the Minden Community Centre

Session #1: January 14th- February 18th
Session #2: February 25th to March 31st

No Cost!

Contact Elisha at 705-286-2808 or eweiss@mindenhills.ca

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Classes serve up new ways to cook

by **DARREN LUM**
Times Staff

Ever since Jay McIvor was 14, he's loved to eat. He parlayed this passion for food to his culinary journey allowing him to enrich his life with the flavours of the world.

As SIRCH Community Services's chef, McIvor is inviting people of all ages to broaden their horizons and learn more about cooking, including safe practices addressing food intolerances and allergies at the upcoming Community Cooking Classes.

McIvor said he wants to "bring ideas to people who would otherwise be uninspired or lacking in general knowledge to prepare meals. I'm going to keep it very simple. I may introduce a packaged meal and show them how to kind of modify it."

One example was mac 'n' cheese. Add some broccoli and you will not only introduce a new flavour, but help bolster the nutrient content of the dish.

The classes are a partnership between SIRCH Community Services and the municipalities of Dysart et al and Minden Hills, through the Senior County Grant Program.

The classes are held in Haliburton and Minden, alternating each week starting on Friday, Jan. 10 and finishing on March 27. The first session begins on Friday, Jan. 10 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. with "Cooking Healthy on a Budget" in Haliburton. The same class will be held in Minden on Friday, Jan. 17 with "Cooking Healthy on a Budget – it IS possible!"

Other classes include "Special Diets: Gluten Free, Dairy-free Cooking"; "Special Diets: Plant-based Cooking"; "Cooking for Guys (men and boys only)"; and two "Cooking for the Week – make it here, take it home" classes. Classes will be capped at 10 participants and are offered for free.

At 55, McIvor remembers how his own culinary horizon was broadened by necessity when he first lived on his own and was dating a woman who was a vegetarian. It prompted him to learn how to cook and cater to his and his partner's taste preferences.

"She said she was a vegetarian, but it turned out she was a carbohydraterian. It was like mac 'n' cheese every meal. 'Well, no, you've got to add vegetables.' And that was one of the things I was going to offer the men [in the class], adding vegetables in mac 'n' cheese just as an idea because it was one of the first things I showed her," he said.

He also used his skills and knowledge to create vegetarian menus for a restaurant. He trained with chefs of German, Japanese and Thai backgrounds. Some of his professional background includes cooking vegetarian and vegan meals starting in 2004, including gluten-free dishes at YMCA Wanakita. He said he is a regular traveller, having visited Asia

more than once, returning to add those flavours to his cooking repertoire.

Anyone interested in saving money is best served by a vegetarian diet since buying meat is more costly, which is an aspect to the "Special Diets" class, he said.

Another area the classes will help with is how to interpret the ingredient lists, reading between the lines to find what might trigger allergies. One example is pea protein, which can be problematic for some people.

Other additions such as spices can enhance and bring flavour to an otherwise uninspiring dish.

"I'm hoping in showing them how to use spices and what

not it'll even inspire them to move on from whatever they're eating," McIvor said.

All sessions in Haliburton are held at SIRCH Central at 2 Victoria Street.

Pre-register by contacting Andrea Mueller at 705-457-1740 ext. 635 or email amueller@dysartetal.ca.

All sessions in Minden held at the Minden Hills Community Centre at 55 Parkside Street.

Pre-register by contacting Elisha Weiss at 705-286-2808 or email her at eweiss@mindenhills.ca.



Kawartha Dairy lends a hand

Manager of the Minden Community Food Centre Joanne Barnes thanks Kawartha Dairy, represented by one of its owners, Craig Crowe for helping with this year's Minden Community Christmas Baskets at the Minden Community Centre on Friday, Dec. 20. Barnes said Kawartha Dairy helped by storing the baskets' 150 turkeys in their fridges for two months and then transported them to the community centre, and also donated a pallet of ice cream for distribution with the 190 baskets given out, which each featured a turkey, or ham roast, and assorted other food items to help 563 people. Families with children were also allowed to pick up toys on Friday, Dec. 20. Crowe said the family-run dairy company has been assisting the food bank for more than 30 years and said they make a point of assisting in every community where their retail outlets are located. "We're community minded," he said. Close to 85 volunteers helped to organize and distribute the items to registered recipients. /DARREN LUM Staff

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RIVERWALK & WETLANDS BOARDWALK – WINTER USAGE

The Boardwalk & Logger's Crossing Bridge are cleared of snow regularly but are not sanded or salted. Residents are advised to "Exercise Caution" when using these pathways as they could develop slippery conditions.

WINTER PARKING

From Nov 1st to Apr 30th, overnight parking is prohibited between the hours of midnight and 8:00 AM on township roadways and parking lots. Furthermore, parking in the turning circle of a cul-de-sac is prohibited during all hours. Vehicles parked in these areas that prohibit the removal of snow will be towed away and/or ticketed at the owner's expense.



COUNCIL MEETINGS

Public Welcome

Meetings are held at 9:00 AM in the Minden Council Chambers, 7 Milne Street.

Jan 9 – Budget Standing Committee Meeting

Jan 9 – Special Meeting of Council

Jan 30 – Combined COTW/Regular Council Meeting
For Council, Boards & Advisory Committee meetings, visit www.mindenhills.ca

Note: Council meetings are reduced to one (1) for the months of December and January.

WINTER SAND AVAILABLE FOR RESIDENTIAL USE

Is available at the Minden Curling Club parking lot, 50 Prentice Street for residential use. Please note there is a limit of one five-gallon container per car. Sand is for personal use only, no commercial users please.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Please Take Notice there will be a Special Meeting of Council held on Thursday, January 9, 2020 following the Budget Standing Committee meeting in the Council Chambers, located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, ON.

The purpose of the Special Meeting is regarding:

- To Execute an Agreement with Tatham Engineering Limited for Inspector Project Management Services; and

To proceed into a Closed Session meeting for the purpose of discussing the following:

- Two items in accordance with Section 239(2)(d) of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended, regarding labour relations or employee negotiations;
- One item in accordance with Section 239(2)(f) of the Municipal Act, 2001 as amended, regarding advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose; and
- Three items in accordance with Section 239(2)(b) of the Municipal Act, 2001 as amended, regarding personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees.

Dated this 6th day of January, 2020.

If you have any questions, please contact:
Vicki Bull, Clerk • (705) 286-1260 ext. 215 • vbull@mindenhills.ca

Pinestone prepares to serve up slapshots and saucer passes to spectators

by **DARREN LUM**
Times Staff

Some will wear goofy costumes complete with outrageous wigs, others will play in matching hockey jerseys or everyday clothes, but one thing all of the hundreds of participants will share is a love of outdoor hockey.

The Canadian National Pond Hockey Championships – a four-on-four, 30-minute game format tournament – draws people from all over the province, and a few from outside the country, to play hockey over two days.

Depending on the division, players will play from Jan. 24 to 25, or the following weekend on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1.

Organizer John Teljeur welcomes the public to see the event that combines the spirit of Halloween and the athleticism of outdoor hockey, set against the Highlands winter backdrop.

He said he's learned a lot about the community after running the event for four years.

"We have an amazing community that shows up every year to help. I've talked to so many of them and the feedback is they have fun and enjoy meeting new people. Anyone that has played or volunteered in the event will tell you that the experience is really amazing. They really like the event and what it does for our community. Over 92 per cent of the teams come from outside of our community, which helps fill up rooms at the Pinestone, Haliburton Heights and other facilities," he wrote in an email.

Teljeur's knowledge of ice has expanded greatly since assuming control of the event.

Although the pond in front of the Pinestone is smaller than other venues, the ice can be "tricky to maintain."

According to Teljeur, an average of five million cubic feet of snow is moved and nearly 70,000 litres of water is pumped to prepare the 500,000-square-foot area for 18 rinks thanks to volunteers and \$100,000-worth of machinery. There must be a minimum of 12 inches of ice before ice preparation. The ice building process and the event can be seen on HalibooTV, which provides constant footage via its live streaming cameras.

Teljeur said there was great risk in taking over the championships in 2017.

In 2016, he learned the past event owner was looking to sell. Teljeur took over the ownership following a discussion with his wife about how depressing it would be if the event were not in Haliburton.

"That's when we decided to just take the risk and buy it ourselves. The first year was very stressful. We had never operated the full event on the Pinestone ice surface and weren't entirely sure we could. It is also a



Above, a Loon Lake team player sends a pass during the Canadian National Pond Hockey Championships last year. This year's event is Jan. 24 and 25, Jan. 31 and Feb. 1 at Pinestone Resort and Conference Centre.



Right, teams squared off at the Canadian National Pond Hockey Championships last year at Pinestone Resort. The annual event is coming back again at the end of January. /DARREN LUM Staff

very every expensive event to run costing upwards of \$60,000 annually. Thanks to the support of some amazing people in the community who jumped in and volunteered their time, we were able to make it work and we have never looked back," he said.

Teljeur thanks the volunteers and the event sponsors including Budweiser, Gibson's Finest Canadian Whisky, Ventrac Compact Tractors, Battlefield Equipment Rentals, Baffin Clothing, Viper Marketing, Amazing Agency and Budget Propane.

New for this year is a 40-foot inflatable igloo tent, which will provide an outdoor food and beverage option.

There will be live entertainment each night. The Baz Littlerock Band performs on Jan. 24, and then the next night, Neon Nostalgic, which covers classic '80s and '90s in front of the original musicians' videos. Rude E Bones performs on Jan. 31 and then Haliburton's Arden and the Tourists perform on Feb. 1. Admission is \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Volunteers and players are free.

The Pondimonium Division, which focuses on recreation and offers no playoff round, is returning. The idea for the division came from player feedback.

"They just wanted to play and not worry about the score. My daughter Sarah came with the name and the rest is history,"

Teljeur said.

Despite the time and energy, Teljeur said he hasn't forgotten what is at the root of the event's success and what it means for the Pinestone and the community.

"The hours are very long – sometimes back-to-back-to-back 18-hour days but I'm surrounded by great volunteers and Pinestone team members who are there every step of the way to make the event a success. To see it all come together after months of planning is awesome," he said. "I'm especially driven by what the event does for the resort and area. The brand is well known so it is an achievement for the community to host one of the largest pond hockey events in the world successfully every year. The event also helps fill up the resort on two weekends that can be hit and miss for anything else. The four days of pond hockey accounts for nearly 10 per cent of [Pinestone restaurant] Stone 21's annual revenues."

See canadapondhockey.ca for information on the event.



Fridays 11:00am-1:30pm

Haliburton Dates:

January 10, 24
February 7, 21
March 6, 20

For more info, or to register for these dates, contact Andrea at amueller@dysartetal.ca

Minden Dates:

January 17, 31
February 14, 28
March 13, 27

For more info, or to register for these dates, contact Elisha at eweiss@mindenhills.ca

Cooking Classes



Foster families provide support to kids

from page 1

works with their families to re-establish a safe home environment.

"Kids need you," Wendy Gordon, the society's foster care supervisor, said in the release. "Individuals from all communities and backgrounds are welcome and encouraged to apply. We would love to talk to you and answer questions you may have about fostering."

The society welcomes foster parents of all faiths, genders, and sexual orientation.

"There is a need for foster parents who support children's religious, cultural, and racial backgrounds and support children and youth who identify as 2SLGBTQ+," the re-

lease reads.

"Children come into the care of Kawartha-Haliburton CAS for many reasons and the needs of children in care vary," reads the agency's website. "Children and youth may present with a range of emotional and/or behavioural challenges; they are in care for varying lengths of time and many will return to the care of the parent or caretaker. The challenge for the foster family is to provide the physical and emotional support to children, while recognizing the difficulty of letting go when a permanent plan is implemented."

According to the website, in order to become foster parents, applicants must be at least 21 years of age, have stable physical and emotional health, finances and family

relationships, complete a vulnerable sector screening test with the police, and be approved through a thorough assessment process. Nearly 30 hours of pre-service training is required before the completion of a home study as part of this process. Foster parents may rent or own their home, and may work. It is the responsibility of working foster parents to arrange suitable supervision for children while they are at work.

Anyone looking for more information about foster parenting can visit the Kawartha Haliburton Children's Aid Society website at <https://www.khcas.on.ca/our-services/foster/foster-parents/>, or call 1-800-661-2843 ex. 1221 to have their questions answered.

Dorset Ice Palace is open

DORSETNEWS

Lee Ross
burgesslt@me.com

Let's keep the community spirit going this winter with a snowman, snow-woman or snow-family building contest. Register and send your pictures to the Dorset Recreation Centre at recreation@algonquinhighlands.ca or for more information call 705-766-9968. All registrations are due by Jan. 20.

Pizza on Earth is opening a coffee shop! They will be open six days a week from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. and will serve fresh brewed coffee, delicious breakfast sandwiches, scones, muffins, lunch bags and more. Check them out on Clan MacKay Road off Highway 35.

The Dorset Ice Palace is open for skating! Thanks to the township employees who spent countless hours flooding the ice for everyone to enjoy. There is no cost to use the rink and when you get cold, head into the rink shack to warm up. Everyone is welcome to use the rink so please be mindful of children and families.

Happy birthday to Graham Avery, Hugh Reynolds, Marie Warkentin, Ian Johnson and Corey Crewson. For birthdays and submissions please send them to burgesslt@me.com.

GET IT
online
www.mindentimes.ca

Agents transfer to new RE/MAX brokerage

by JENN WATT
Editor

Sixty-five former agents of North Country Realty Inc. are transferring their licences within the RE/MAX network.

"We are happy to announce that the RE/MAX brand will continue to operate in the Muskoka and Haliburton regions, and RE/MAX Professionals, under the ownership of Leah Ambler, will be opening new locations in the near future," a RE/MAX spokesperson said.

Trading activities ceased at RE/MAX North Country Realty Inc., which includes offices in Haliburton, Minden and Wilberforce, following an order by the Registrar of the Real Estate Council of Ontario to suspend its registrations.

A news release from RECO was issued

on Dec. 31 stating that "RECO discovered a shortfall in RE/MAX North Country Realty Inc.'s statutory real estate trust account, where consumer deposits are to be held." The statement goes on to say that "additional action may be taken."

The spokesperson for RE/MAX told the *Times* that the real estate company moved quickly to address the issue, releasing the following statement:

"At RE/MAX, we are committed to ensuring the consumer is protected and in light of the recent financial matter regarding RE/MAX North Country, we took swift action to terminate the brokerage on December 23, 2019, and launch an official investigation with RECO. Our focus at this time is to protect the best interests of consumers and our dedicated RE/MAX North Country agents, and we are working tirelessly to rectify all is-

issues within our control."

"We pride ourselves on operating with integrity and take all financial matters that affect consumers or our agents very seriously," said Christopher Alexander, regional director of RE/MAX INTEGRA, Ontario-Atlantic Canada. "At this time, we are committed to working with RECO to understand the full depth of the situation in order to take the appropriate action moving forward."

RE/MAX North Country includes offices in Huntsville, Bala, Bracebridge, Burk's Falls, Gravenhurst, Kilworthy, and Port Loring, in addition to Haliburton, Minden and Wilberforce. Huntsville is the head office.

Contact information for those looking for more information can be found at reco.on.ca/public-advisory/re-max-north-country-realty-inc.



www.hhhs.ca

HHHS IS LOOKING FOR NEW DIRECTORS

Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) Corporation has openings for new directors – local residents and cottage owners who want to help build on the outstanding health services currently provided in the county. HHHS operates facilities in Minden and Haliburton providing hospital (emergency services, acute care, and palliative), long-term care, and community services.

HHHS is privileged to have an outstanding team of health professionals and modern facilities. Challenges persist in attracting new staff, meeting the needs of our aging population, and anticipating/planning for the future.

The HHHS Board strives to bring together a group of individuals with knowledge of the community. HHHS is particularly interested in hearing from people with knowledge, experience, and/or interest in any of the following areas:

- planning and delivery of quality and accessible health services
- financial
- clinical
- legal
- information technology
- public relations/communications
- human resources
- participating on a community board

If you feel you have the time, energy, and commitment to be a Director, then we would like to hear from you by January 31, 2020. The new Directors will be appointed at the annual general meeting in June.

In addition to new director positions, HHHS is accepting applications for community members on its Finance and Quality Committees.

For further information and an application, please access our website at: www.hhhs.ca / administration & board / board & oversight

Or contact: Marlene Vieira
Executive Assistant to President & CEO and Board
Phone (705) 457-2527
mvieira@hhhs.ca



"SNOWSHOE SNOWDON"

Monday January 20th, 2:00pm –4:00pm

Snowdon Park (meet in parking lot)

Hike Leader: Rick Whitteker

"WILD WAYS OF WHITE WATER"

Monday February 10th, 2:00pm-4:00pm

Minden White Water Preserve (meet in parking lot on Horseshoe Lk Rd)

Hike Leader: Rick Whitteker

Stay tuned for more hikes to follow!

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!

****Snowshoes available for use upon request****

COST: BY DONATION

Elisha: 705-286-2808



Ontario

IN OTHER WORDS

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Subscriptions must be prepaid. Call Debbie @ 705-286-1288**2020****W**ELL, IT'S 2020. The future is now, even though there are no flying cars or robot maids or anything, which frankly, feels like a bit of a ripoff.

We do have TikTok, though. Whatever that is.

In Haliburton County, and specifically in Minden Hills, this year will see the completion of the township's arena project.

The project appears to be ahead of schedule – apparently heading toward completion in June instead of the fall – which is nice, but it would be nicer still if it was completed at or below the budgeted cost. We learned in December that the \$12.5-million

project had a projected overrun of \$70,000, and the builders came to council asking for and receiving an additional \$250,000 in contingency. The township has received some grant funding, notably \$150,000 from the Ontario Trillium Foundation that will pay for some “value-added” items at the new facility. Some more successful grant applications toward the project would be a very welcome sight in 2020. Last year the township was unsuccessful in an application for a \$1-million grant, and a grant of that size, or a combination of grants in that order of financial magnitude, would be a promising scenario for a project with such an immense price tag. Remember

it's being paid for mostly through a 30-year debenture; the township's taxpayers are paying for this facility for the next three decades. It would be nice also to see the project's fundraising group make some substantial headway on its goal of \$750,000.

At the upper tier level, the County of Haliburton has released a request for proposals for a service delivery and governance review for the county

and its four lower-tier municipalities. Warden Liz Danielsen has noted that while there is an appetite for amalgamation among a number of county residents, there is no evidence that a single-tier government would

result in any substantial financial savings. The opposite is also true. There's no evidence that it wouldn't. What is evident, and one need not be a consultant to see it, is that inherent in the county's current governance structure are a number of inconsistencies, inefficiencies and redundancies. One building and bylaw department for the entire county is merely logical. A united and uniform approach to waste disposal and diversion only makes sense.

The review's recommendations should form the basis for the blueprint for a new model of governance, which will make 2020 a big year for the county.

Oh, and flying cars. Someone please get on that.

**CHAD INGRAM**
Reporter**Kwarky**

Kim Wark

Ice fishing psychology**A** LOT OF PEOPLE think a person has to be crazy to go ice fishing.

After all, what you are doing is deliberately deciding to spend a few hours walking upon the most slippery and untrustworthy substance known to mankind, provided you don't count Trump's press secretaries. All this is in order to catch dinner that could easily be bought at any seafood market or grocery store.

There's more to it than that though. Ice fishing is a very pleasant way to pass winter, if you have the right tools. The most important of these is a colleague who loves drilling holes. In a perfect world, your friend would have just returned from a few years out west in the oil fields. I find people like this have a real penchant for drilling, especially if you can convince them that the lake you are on is an, as yet, unexploited oil patch.

It's not all fun and games, however. To be convincing, you need to wear a hard hat and talk disparagingly about eastern Canada, which, if you think about it, is a small price to pay for getting your fishing holes drilled.

What I am saying shouldn't come as any surprise to veteran ice anglers. For they have always known that the worst part of ice fishing is creating your own little patch of open water to fish through. Let's face it, if it were easy, we'd make them big enough for our boats.

Interestingly, early ice anglers never used tools to create holes at all. In fact, they only realized that you could consistently break through the ice and find open water after a series of very successful bonfires on a newly frozen lake.

Soon after, they learned they could do

this more safely (for most), if they just walked out on the ice following the heaviest guy in the clan. This is why you see no ancient cave drawings of overweight cavemen.

The first real ice fishing tools were rocks and clubs.

This was an exhausting and inefficient way to break through the ice. Luckily for us, someone soon invented the ice spud, which was an equally grueling way to break through until another person invented reverse psychology.

That's when the phrase, “Boy, there's nothing more fun than chipping away at the ice” heralded in the golden age of ice fishing.

The art of breaking through ice was further advanced when someone invented the manual auger. This was the pinnacle of creating a fishing hole until an angler watching a figure skater do a prolonged pirouette on the lake realized that drilling a

hole could be done even faster.

This led to the development of the gas powered auger, which at first was a figure skater who had been fed beans.

Eventually, and probably because no one could agree on the judging, this was replaced by an auger with a combustible engine. This machine allowed a person to go out on the ice and swear a lot when it wouldn't start.

These days the power auger has been perfected in both gas and battery powered models. This has led to more efficient and effortless ways to drill holes in the ice. But still the essential problem remains the same. Who gets to use it?

I certainly don't have the answer.

All I know is, boy, there's nothing more fun than chipping away at the ice.

**STEVE GALEA**
Beyond 35

IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Waiting for a new dawn

THE NEW DECADE dawned with many of us hoping for change. Or, perhaps, for the way things used to be.

Arriving with the new year was a film version of the musical *Cats*, released in theatres a few days before Christmas. A memorable scene has Grizabella, the Glamour Cat, lamenting the loss of life the way it used to be.

"I remember the time I knew what happiness was," she laments in the Andrew Lloyd Webber tune *Memory*. "Let the memory live again."

Times certainly were happier before climate change, before democracy-damaging partisan politics, before autocratic rule, the opioid epidemic, rampant gun violence and a new populism that was supposed to benefit common folks, but has benefitted the elite and their stock portfolios.

However, while reliving a distant past might work for a glamour cat, it is not helpful to mere humans as we enter a decade expected to be more chaotic and violent than the one just passed.

It also will be a decade in which information manipulation and outright disinformation confuse fake and fact, wrong and right.

A challenge of the '20s will be to become smarter about the information we consume – so we can form more intelligent opinions.

"The irony of the Information Age is that it has given new respectability to uninformed opinion," the author John Lawton has noted.

He is bang on about that, and he is supported by

Christopher Wray, the latest FBI director, who has urged citizens to be savvier consumers of news.

"Well, look, there's all kinds of people saying all kinds of things out there," he said in a Dec. 10 interview. "I think it's important for the American people to be thoughtful consumers of information and to think about the sources of it and to think about the support and predication for what they hear."

That is nifty bureaucratic subtlety, but beneath it is an urging for people not to swallow the crap being pumped out by political parties, governments and corporate entities working to turn debates and decisions in their favour.

The message is: Get smart. Get genuine news and information tied to properly sourced facts.

Manipulation of public opinion through deliberate disinformation campaigns is a serious threat to society, in fact to democracy itself.

A new report from Oxford University's Internet Institute says that the number of countries using media manipulation campaigns has increased 150 per cent over the past two years.

Social media is a huge source of disinformation growth and using it to manipulate information and public opinion is big business. The Oxford study found that in the decade just closed political parties and governments spent half a billion dollars researching, developing and implementing psychological operations and public opinion manipulation over social media.

Somehow, we all have to accept that while social media sites can be fun and interesting, they are not places to gather the high-quality information needed to form thoughtful opinions. Events such as elections, humanitarian disasters, military crises and changing climate are too important to leave to discussions based on junk information.

Says the Oxford report: "A strong democracy requires access to high-quality information and an ability for citizens to come together to debate, discuss, deliberate, empathize, and make concessions. Are social media platforms really creating a space for public deliberation and democracy? Or are they amplifying content that keeps citizens addicted, disinformed, and angry?"

It is a world of disinformation and anger that leaves so many yearning for change, or a return to what used to be. But nothing will change until we start paying close attention and decide that it is important to form our opinions from evidence-based facts.

The new year and new decade bring plenty of hope that we will not be sucked in by disinformation campaigns and create much needed change, although not necessarily a change to the way things were.

Grizabella the Glamour Cat offers hope at the end of her midnight lament:

"Daylight,

I must wait for the sunrise

I must think of a new life

And I mustn't give in.

When the dawn comes, tonight will be a memory too

And a new day will begin."

It is a new day, a new year, a new decade and change will come, if we work for it.



JIM POLING SR.

From Shaman's Rock

letters to the editor

Stroke survivors are not alone

To the Editor,

Are you or someone you love recovering from a stroke? Do you feel you have a physical or cognitive or neurological impairment? Were you sent home from the hospital with no follow up help? Do you feel lost and don't know where to turn for help? Are you a caregiver of a stroke survivor? Are you looking for answers?

We have that help and answers at the Haliburton Highlands Stroke Support Group. We meet on the third Thursday of each month in the Fireside Lounge at Highland Crest Seniors Home above the Minden hospital, 6 McPherson

St. from 10 a.m. to noon. We offer friendship, health information, sharing of support, exercise, guest speakers, all in a fun, relaxing atmosphere. We show you how to work the health-care system to reach the support system you need. We encourage caregivers to come as well. Stroke is treatable and our goal is to get you back out in society at the level of your capability. Our meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. Please join us. You are not alone!

Lois Rigney
Minden Hills

Adjust, don't stop!

I RECENTLY HAD an email exchange with a client who had turned 50 years old a few months ago. She said "I want to 'not' approach my fitness with ageism...by that I mean yes, recognize that I am 50 but not look at this as a limitation for the things I want to do." I support this approach completely but there is a "but." Sometimes we do have to adjust as we age and that is not a bad thing.

During that particular conversation I realized that I am on my way to the big 6-0. I know, it's crazy. On reflecting on the past almost 10 years I realized I have adjusted. I used to push harder when I was in my early 50s. I would set bigger goals both professionally and physically. There is a pressure that exists in our society that really shouldn't be there at all. It's all about being busy. It's become a measurement of success. I find that incredibly sad. I made that adjustment a few years ago thanks to a podcast I was listening to. The interviewer (who happened to be Oprah) asked the interviewee the greatest lesson he had learned. His answer was: there's nothing to prove. I wrote that on a sticky note and put it on my wall just above my computer screen.

We are all aging. That is fact. How you would like to age is up to you. That is another fact. I don't set the physical goals like I used to set. Cycling in a 100 km event doesn't interest me anymore. I've adjusted to going out for leisurely rides of no more than 50 km. That has as much to do with the time investment as it does with the physical demand. It takes more time to get and stay in shape to comfortably ride the longer distance now than it did 10 years ago. So, I adjusted. That adjustment really comes with

a change in attitude and that's where the statement "I've got nothing to prove" was so helpful.

My dad has recently gone through an adjustment. He has been active in some way for his entire life. Cycling came into his life in his later years. When he turned 77 years old, he decided his goal would be to cycle his age on this birthday at the end of July. That became an annual goal for him. On his 80th birthday I cycled with him (he

will comment that we actually cycled 82 km that day so I had better mention it before he does). I think that was the last time he did that kind of distance. It's now a few years later and this summer he was having a harder time cycling. It was a concern to him but instead of pushing through the pain or stopping completely he adjusted by getting an e-bike. It has kept him outside and

doing an activity that he loves. He pedals when he can and when he needs some assistance, he presses a button and away he goes. The funny thing is that now he will likely be waiting for me at the top of the hills.

Many years ago, I saw a fellow wearing a T-shirt that said "The older I get the better I was." I say that to clients when they are thinking that they should be able to do something they used to be able to do. It's one of those give your head a shake and step back into reality moments. There is nothing wrong with adjusting. There is everything wrong with stopping.

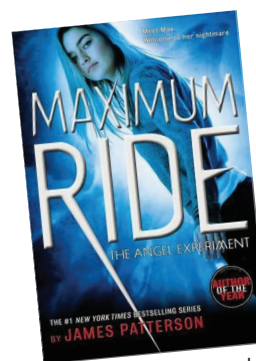
Something to think about.

Laurie Sweig is a certified personal fitness trainer and spinning instructor. She owns and operates The Point for Fitness. She can be reached at laurie@thepointforfitness.com.



LAURIE SWEIG
Practical Fitness

Book of the Month - January



Maximum Ride: The Angel Experiment by James Patterson

If you dare to read this story, you become part of the Experiment. I know that sounds a little mysterious – but it's all I can say for now.

–Max

Six unforgettable kids – with no families, and no homes – are running for their lives. 14-year-old Max Ride and her best friends (Fang, Iggy, Nudge, Gasman, and Angel) are not your average group of kids. For one, they can fly. And that's just the beginning of their amazing powers. After escaping the mysterious and sinister "School," this "flock" has nothing but each other. They're also being hunted. When Angel is kidnapped, the others will do anything to save her. Along the way, though, Max learns a disturbing truth. Are they meant to save the world? Or destroy it?

The first novel in a thrilling series, *Maximum Ride* is available from HCPL.

2019 *Year in Review*

January

Handlen found guilty of first-degree murder

A B.C. Supreme Court jury found former Minden resident Garry Handlen guilty of first-degree murder on Jan. 17. Handlen was living in Minden at the time of his arrest in 2014. He was convicted of the 1978 murder of 12-year-old Monica Jack near Merritt, B.C. The case centred on a videotape of Handlen taken by undercover police officers where he confesses to grabbing a girl off her bike. On Jan. 28, he was sentenced to life in prison, which carries a minimum of 25 years without parole.

County asks province to maintain funding level

The County of Haliburton asked the provincial government to sustain levels of municipal funding through the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund for rural and northern communities. Just before Christmas in 2018, then-finance minister Vic Fedeli sent letters to councils informing them the overall amount of money the province allots to municipal governments would be decreasing. The county representatives argued in a letter to Fedeli that rural municipalities rely on the funding to provide services and have specific challenges not experienced in urban areas, such as providing roadways connecting relatively few taxpayers.



Minden Curling Club youth curlers Dalton Fahey, left, (Cole Hamilton at back, obscured) and Taya Tomlinson keep a close eye on the house, ready to sweep during the Haliburton Youth Bonspiel on Saturday, Jan. 26 at the Haliburton Curling Club. There were 32 curlers on eight rinks, four from the Haliburton Club and four from the Minden Club competing in the event focused on skill development and fun. The rinks played two six-end games. /DARREN LUM Staff

Trillium funding to help haul ash

A substantial grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation will allow the Friends of the Muskoka Watershed to conduct a study on the use of wood ash to restore calcium levels in the region, a study that will have implications for Haliburton County. Decades of acid rain, along with logging in the area, have resulted in calcium depletion in soils and waterbodies. Hard-shelled species such as crayfish and turtles can be particularly affected by low calcium levels. The goal of Hauling Ash to Protect Our Forests' Future project is to use wood ash to rejuvenate calcium levels in forests and lakes.

County will wait for pot shops

Municipal councillors were in contact with MPP Laurie Scott about retail cannabis licences. Although the county and each of the four lower-tier municipalities opted in to allowing pot shops within their borders, the first round of licences were not awarded to any retailer serving a population of less than 50,000. Local politicians asked Scott to ensure the county wasn't left out of the next round of licences being issued. As of press time, no pot shops have been granted licences in

Haliburton County.

HHHS receives fraction of requested grants

The board of Haliburton Highlands Health Services heard at their January meeting that very little of the requested funding from the Health Infrastructure Renewal Fund Exceptional Circumstances Program was granted. "In late November [2018], we received notification that only \$33,000 of our submitted projects of \$393,000 were approved, in other words, approximately eight per cent," then-finance committee chair David Gray said.

Local reps advocate for cell gap project

Politicians from throughout the county attended the Rural Ontario Municipal Association conference, spending some of the time meeting with provincial cabinet ministers. The Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund was one of the topics discussed as well as the Eastern Ontario Regional Network's cell gap project.

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Councillors in favour of review of municipal governance

Municipal representatives said a review needs to be done of the way Haliburton County’s two-tier government and services work and people should keep an open mind about what the outcome of the process will be. In January, the province announced a review of more than 80 municipalities, with an advisory body providing expert advice. Haliburton County was not involved in the review, however, local politicians said it would be prudent to examine how the county and the four lower-tier municipalities are run.

MH firefighters help save a life

Two Minden Hills firefighters were honoured on Jan. 24 for assisting in saving a patient who did not have vital signs. Firefighter Cody Withey and fire chief Mike Bekking received lightning bolt pins at a Minden Hills council meeting. They had responded to a medical call in the south end of the township on Jan. 3 where together with paramedics they were able to return the patient’s pulse within three minutes of contact.

Councillors have questions on transportation

Haliburton County councillors received a presentation from consulting firm IBI Group in January on a transportation plan. Challenges to a local public transit system include the sparse population in the large geographic area and dispersed travel patterns that make it difficult to serve. The consultant said that it was preferable for the county to start simple to judge the uptake of a new system first. The recommended model was a booked shared-ride service. Councillors expressed concern with the proposed plan including logistics and cost and said they would submit questions to county planner Charley White and discuss transportation at their budget deliberations.

Arena validation phase exceeds approved cost

The cost for the validation phase of the Minden arena exceeded the amount approved for it by Minden Hills council - by a wide margin. During a special council meeting on Jan. 31, councillors received an update, some expressing dismay at the size of the financial overage for its initial phase. In September of 2018, the previous Minden Hills council approved \$140,000 for the completion of the validation phase, which is a series of engineering assessments. In December of 2018, community services director Mark Coleman told council the forecasted cost had risen to \$252,000 and councillors approved a total spend of \$280,000. On Jan. 31, council heard that number had risen again, to \$323,000, exceeding the December estimate by nearly \$71,000.

February

Fire claims Boshkung home

A house on Lake Boshkung was destroyed by fire on the afternoon of Feb. 1. The Algonquin Highlands Fire Department



Skaters are lit by the string lights, hanging over the ice during the Family Winter Warm-up at the Dawson Hamilton Memorial Rink set against the pioneer village located at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre on Friday, Feb. 15, 2019. /DARREN LUM Staff

received assistance from Minden Hills and Dysart et al. The house was a total loss. There were no injuries reported.

City of Kawartha Lakes supports Minden housing project

The City of Kawartha Lakes committed to providing funds to support the construction of the second phase of Pinegrove Place, the affordable housing complex near the arena in Minden. During a Feb. 19 meeting, county councillors approved a request from the Kawartha Lakes Haliburton Housing Corporation to take out a \$2.9-million debenture to support the construction of the \$4.5-million facility. Haliburton County contributed \$252,000 to the project.

OMPF comes through

There had been concern earlier in the year that the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund money would be reduced in 2019, but in February it was announced that the funding would remain the same as the previous year.

County approves budget in principle

Haliburton County councillors approved the 2019 budget in principle during their Feb. 25 meeting, including money for a physician recruiter and further work on transit. The budget included a residential tax rate increase of 5.72 per cent, which translated to an increase of \$11.39 for every \$100,000 of assessment. That upper tier tax rate does not include the lower-tier taxes or those for the school board.

Minden Hills approves \$12.5 million arena renewal in 4-3 vote

Mayor Brent Devolin broke a tie with his vote of yes to award the \$12.5-million arena renewal contract at a special meeting on Feb. 14. Councillors Bob Carter, Jennifer Hughey and Pam Sayne voted against, with councillors Ron Nesbitt and Jean Neville and Deputy Mayor Lisa Schell in favour. The arena project involved demolishing the current arena, built in 1972, and building a new arena with a 200-foot ice rink, bleachers, six change rooms, multi-purpose gym, and elevated walking track. The contract was awarded to McDonald Brothers Construction Ltd. and Parkin Architects Ltd.

Fire on Gelert Road destroys house

Fire crews put the water shuttle into action on Feb. 20 when they arrived at the scene of a fire on Gelert Road to find a house fully engulfed in a non-hydrant area. Firefighters had to find a body of water close to the roadway they could gain access to in order to fight the blaze. Firefighters were able to contain the fire to the house, saving a nearby garage from damage.

AH taxes go up 1.56 per cent

Algonquin Highlands councillors approved the 2019 budget on Feb. 20 after two days of deliberations. The budget contained a tax levy increase of just less than five per cent over 2018, but an actual tax rate increase experienced by property owners of 1.56 per cent. For every \$100,000 of residential assessment, property taxes were \$315.50 – an increase of \$4.84 from 2018.

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Senior girls v-ball silver at COSSA

The Haliburton Highlands Secondary School volleyball team won the Kawartha Championship with a closely contested 3-0 win over Campbellford on Thursday, Feb. 14 at Kenner Collegiate in Peterborough. The Hawks earned their entry into the finals with a 3-0 win over Kenner in the semi-final.

On Feb. 20, they took second place when the COSSA championship was held in Haliburton.

Curlers win Kawartha championship

The Red Hawks boys' and girls' curling teams both took home the top prizes on Feb. 19 and 20 in Omeme at the Kawartha Championships. The girls had an undefeated 2-0 record. The boys finished 3-0 in the competition.

Wrestlers advance to OFSAA

On Feb. 22, HHSS wrestlers competed at the COSSA championships in Belleville. Six athletes qualified for provincials, although only five would be attending.

March

QEI info meeting gets heated

Recreational motorized vehicle users were looking to get a decision reversed on restricting their vehicles from using a popular trail accessing the Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands Park, after they left an information session disappointed. Dozens of people attended a meeting at the Minden Hills Community Centre on March 13 hoping to get answers about why the Minden Hydro Line Trail was being closed off from April 1 to mid-September. The decision to reduce motorized traffic was based on a management statement from 2001 to minimize damage to the environment. Many said they hadn't been told about the decision. Members of the public are welcome to access the park through the trail, but not using motorized means.

Midget Storm players advance to provincials

The Highland Storm Midget team advanced to the finals for Midget CC teams against the Twin Centre Stars, a team near Kitchener. Coach James Reilly said it was a young team that was focused on development and he was thrilled that they made it to provincials.

Federal budget contains cash for rural broadband

Money for the expansion of the rural broadband network was included in the federal budget in March. Conservative MP Jamie Schmale said he was happy to see the funding in the Liberals' budget, but noted that while a plan for further rural broadband expansion and improved cell service in eastern Ontario has been in the works for a couple of years, the funding from feds came in an election year.

Residents oppose sewage spreading field

Residents filled Minden Hills council chambers for a public meeting on March 14, many expressing opposition to an official plan and zoning bylaw amendment application for the operation of a hauled sewage spreading site off of Bobcaygeon Road. Eighteen acres of a 117-acre property would be used for ground spreading. An environmental certificate approval had already been received from the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks. During the summer of 2018, haulage was spread at the site until the company was informed it was not a permitted use under the property's zoning. Opposition included concerns about noise, increased traffic, odour and potential contamination of area water bodies. The township's planner said he would prepare another report with more information.

Protest for climate action draws support

High school student Jurgen Shantz led a climate action protest outside the Municipality of Dysart et al's office on March 22, attracting about 40 people over the course of the day. Jurgen, who was 16, said he'd like to see more green programs for the town, elimination of single-use water bottles at the high school, a reduction of plastic use and an increase in solar panel installation. He was motivated by Swedish teen activist Greta Thunberg. He would go on to lead several climate protests throughout the year.

HHSS curlers advance to OFSAA

The Red Hawks boys' curling team of Dustyn McCready-DeBruin, Jacob Dobson, Liam Little and Corin Gervais advanced to OFSAA after winning the COSSA championship title in Stirling, Ont. on March 4. The boys were undefeated and finished COSSA 3-0 in the competition. The boys placed fifth at the OFSAA provincial championship in North Bay on March 20 to 23. Eighteen teams competed. The coach was Darrell Dobson.

Coles repeats podium finish at OFSAA

Five Red Hawks competed at the OFSAA wrestling championships. The competition from March 4 to 6 drew more than 750 wrestlers from around Ontario. Charlotte Paton and Connie Oh represented the girls team and each ended the tournament with one win and two losses. Austin Weller lost his second match. Nic Graham had two wins and two losses. Aidan Coles had four wins and two losses and finished fifth in the province in the 95 kg weight division. He is the first male wrestler from HHSS to reach the OFSAA podium (top six) in two consecutive years.



Tammy Lee, right, a trainee in the SIRCH Cook It Up program, designed the first meal of the fifth series, which was held at Molly's on March 12, 2019. Her Taste of France menu included potato leek bisque and salmon with wild rice pilaf (which she plates here alongside Jay McIvor) and orange chocolate cheesecake for dessert. The program took place weekly throughout the winter months in 2019. /SUE TIFFIN Staff

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COSSA silver caps Hawks' hockey season

The Red Hawks senior boys' hockey team ended the 2019 season with a silver medal following the COSSA championship final. They lost 1-0 to the Thunder of St. Mary, but were proud of achieving their goal of getting to COSSA.

County, CoKL reduce chronic homelessness by more than half

The County of Haliburton and the City of Kawartha Lakes were on track to reach "functional zero" when it comes to chronic homelessness in the joint area of the two municipalities. CoKL announced since August of 2018, there was a 51 per cent reduction of chronically homeless people in the two communities and this accomplishment was recognized at the Built for Zero press conference in Toronto. The number of people known to be chronically homeless dropped from 57 to 28 during that time period.

County starts climate change plan process

Haliburton County council supported the creation of a climate change plan for the county and its lower tiers during a meeting on March 27. A climate change co-ordinator would be hired to put the plan in place.

CIBC celebrates 100 years in Minden

The Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce celebrated 100 years in Minden with an event in March. Minden's first bank was established in 1895 by J.H. Delamere. In July of 1907, the Sterling Bank purchased the property at the corner of Bobcaygeon Road and Newcastle Street, where the CIBC stands today. A small building there operated as the bank until 1911, when it closed. Then in 1919, the Sterling Bank re-opened. The Minden bank was purchased in 1924 by Standard Bank of Canada, which was purchased by the predecessor of CIBC in 1928.

Storm finishes season

The Highland Storm Midget boys' team came just shy of winning the OMHA Midget CC provincial final against Twin Centre Stars in March. After the 2-1 loss, coach James Reilly praised the team for winning the Larry Belisle Trophy for finishing as the runner up. He said they battled to the end of the game and should be proud of themselves for the commitment they demonstrated becoming better and stronger throughout the season.

Taxes up 3 per cent in Minden Hills

Minden Hills residents received a tax rate increase of just more than three per cent at the lower-tier for 2019. Councillors reviewed a fourth draft of the budget following a public meeting on March 28. That meant for every \$1,000 of assessment, taxes increased from \$3.54 to \$3.65. For a home assessed at \$300,000, that amounted to an increase of just less than \$65 in taxation for the year.

Chamber of Commerce awards business and community

The Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce Business and Community Achievement Awards were held on



John McNeil, left, and Chris Trakosas, volunteers who worked to prepare for potential high waters in Minden in April, pull a plastic tarp over a thin wall of sandbags that had been breached by the rising Gull River near Anson Street. /SUE TIFFIN Staff

March 30 at Pinestone. Highlander of the Year was awarded to Steve Todd of Todd's Independent. Other award winners included Haliburton Solar and Wind, Rotary Club of Haliburton, Shontel Neville, Haliburton County Chiropractic and Rehabilitation, Haliburton Forest and Wild Life Reserve, Dr. Kassie Wright, Brandi Hewson, and Harvest Haliburton.

April

State of emergency

For the third time in six years, the Township of Minden Hills declared a state of emergency as the Gull River flooded. "Weather and above-normal snowpack has led to rising water levels, that we've experience and seen over 35 centimetres in the last four days," Mayor Brent Devolin said. Declaring a state of emergency allows municipalities to access aid from upper levels of government.

Students join province-wide walkout

At 1:15 p.m. on April 4, the front doors of Haliburton Highlands Secondary School opened and more than 50 students walked out of class to protest changes being made to the province's education system by the PC government that included proposed increased class sizes, mandatory e-learning modules, changes to OSAP, a classroom cellphone ban and potential teacher job cuts. Thousands of students across

the province participated in the walk-out.

Minden Hills accrues huge surplus for 2018

The Township of Minden Hills accrued a very large surplus in 2018 totalling almost \$700,000, representing 4.2 per cent of all budgeted expenses. Councillors received a report on the surplus at their April 11 meeting. Fifty-four per cent of the amount came from unfilled staff positions; the township had a hard time filling part-time, seasonal and student positions in the community services department in 2018.

Haliburton Rideshare comes to an end

After running for several years, Haliburton Rideshare was parked. Insufficient funds and energy were reasons cited by the Rural Transportation Options committee. The website was a forum for county residents to arrange for carpooling.

Scott draws crowd and protesters

When MPP Laurie Scott came to McKecks Tap and Grill to be the guest speaker on April 23, she was met with a crowd of protesters holding placards expressing their displeasure with the current provincial government. Numbering close to 30, the group included members of the Concerned Citizens of Haliburton County and Environment Haliburton.

Waitlist for financially assisted housing grows

Since 2013, the list for financially assisted housing in

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Haliburton County and the City of Kawartha Lakes increased 375 per cent. About 1,700 households were on the waiting list, nearly 700 of them singles or couples, 600 of them seniors and 375 families. The greatest demand is one-bedroom units. Housing prices are part of the issue, as they've increased in recent years with mortgage rules becoming more strict. With a limited supply of rental accommodations, the price of rentals is also up.

No action on transit

Haliburton County councillors decided at a meeting in April that they would revisit the possibility of some kind of transit system during their 2020 budget discussions. They had commissioned a study in 2018, which suggested a booked, shared-ride system contracted out to a private company. Councillors voiced concerns about cost, logistical challenges and a relatively small group of users. They agreed at their meeting to keep the \$50,000 allotted for transportation work and monitor trends in rural transit.

Funding cuts affect library operations

A 50 per cent reduction in funding to the Southern Ontario Library Service by the provincial government meant cuts in service to the Haliburton County Public Library. The provincial courier system was cut and inter-library loans were also suspended. Later in the year, some libraries reinstated inter-library loan, however, with a change in the delivery model, HCPL chose to wait until the 2020 budget year to assess costs. Inter-library loan allows patrons to request books from libraries outside of the county's system. It also links HCPL's collections with other libraries, allowing their patrons to request books from Haliburton.

Spreading field approved in 4-3 vote

During an April 25 meeting, Minden Hills councillors approved zoning and official plan amendments to allow for the operation of a sewage spreading field off of Bobcaygeon Road in a vote that was as close as they come. The approval means sewage spreading would proceed on 18 acres of a 117-acre property four kilometres north of Minden. In a recorded vote, councillors Pam Sayne, Jean Neville, Jennifer Hughey voted against the amendments with councillors Bob Carter and Ron Nesbitt, Deputy Mayor Lisa Schell and Mayor Brent Devolin voting in favour.

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May

State of emergency ends

A flood-related state of emergency in Minden Hills was lifted by the township on May 6 and a flood warning from the MNRF's Bancroft District involving the Gull, Irondale and Burnt river watersheds ended. A number of roads were closed to all but local traffic and some washouts occurred. Many Minden residents sandbagged their properties as the Gull River overtook the Minden Riverwalk and crept onto parts of the roadway including Anson Street and Invergordon Avenue.

Toronto organization looks to revive old camp in Minden Hills

Toronto's St. Alban's Boys and Girls Club purchased a summer camp property in Minden Hills and its president made a presentation to township councillors during a May 9 meeting. St. Alban's purchased the property off of County Road 121, located on 242 acres with 7,000 feet of shoreline on Howland Lake in 2018. The club was founded in 1949 as a boys' sports club meeting in the basement of St. Alban's Parish Hall in Toronto. Girls became part of the club in the 1960s. Today, the club operates in four Toronto communities and has about 800 kids per day partaking in after-school activities. The plan for the camp is to focus on outdoor and wilderness experiences.

Physician recruiter hired

Addressing a severe shortage of doctors in the Haliburton Highlands, the County of Haliburton provided funding to hire a part-time physician recruitment co-ordinator. Cheryl Kennedy was the successful applicant for the position.

Green burials beginning of a 'community wide project'

Terry Moore, a member of Environment Haliburton, appealed to Algonquin Highlands council at their meeting in May to offer all-year green burial options for residents. After the death of Terry's son, Kyle Moore, the Moore family could not find adequate options within the municipality to honour Kyle's request for an environmentally sensitive burial.



The demolition of the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena began in May, as seen in this photo taken of the side of the building facing the multi-unit dwelling./
DARREN LUM Staff

Existing bylaws do not permit burials to take place between November and April. Moore requested AH review existing cemetery bylaws to identify and remove barriers for green burials, designate land for green burials and appoint a representative to sit on the Green Burial Advisory Committee. Mayor Carol Moffatt said staff would look into the requests and council was supportive of the initiative.

Junior girls soccer team wins gold

The Haliburton Highlands Secondary School girls soccer team was ranked third going into the COSSA championships on May 30 and through hard work placed first. In the final game, they were up against the Kenner Rams. They earned their victory with a 1-0 defeat of the Rams to win gold.

Not enough student interest to run HHSS music course

Music class was offered as a course selection for the 2019-2020 school year at HHSS, but too few students chose it as an option, meaning it was postponed. Nine students out of about 430 at the high school chose music as an option for the coming school year and combined with timetable issues, there wasn't enough interest to run the class.

Minden breaks ground for new arena build

The groundbreaking ceremony for the new arena in Minden was held on May 31 following the demolition of the old arena, which was built in 1972. The event was postponed due to flooding in late April. Mayor Brent Devolin was joined by councillors, MP Jamie Schmale and MPP Laurie Scott, municipal staff and members of the arena's task force for a ceremonial photo.

Turtle project gains global traction

The Haliburton Highlands Land Trust's turtle mortality mitigation project received attention from academics around the world, the organization reported at its annual general meeting on June 1 at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre. The three-year study, conducted from 2015 to 2017 into how to better protect turtles on roadways resulted in a barrier wall designed by Minden's Paul Heaven, a biologist, which allowed turtles to use a culvert or channel as an underpass. According to the land trust, this work significantly reduced the number of turtles killed while nesting and crossing roads to each wetland.

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Archie Stouffer
Elementary School
students trekked
Minden's Riverwalk on
June 19, raising \$800
for Haliburton County-
based charity Help A
Village Effort. /CHAD
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Gimon and Coles named Athletes of the Year

Aidan Coles and Natalya Gimon were selected as the Athletes of the Year at the 41st annual Athletic Banquet on June 13 at HHSS. Gimon was described as a natural athlete with a commitment to hard work and training. Coles was praised for his humility, called "an athlete, a scholar, a leader, a gentleman and a friend."

HHSS students graduate

Friends and family came together to celebrate commencement with the 95 students in the class of 2019 at the Athletic Complex at HHSS. Valedictorian Nick Toth said that Hal High would be part of the grads' hearts forever. The Governor General's Academic Medal was given to Vaibhavi Marathe. The Lieutenant Governor General's Award for Community Service went to Liam Little.

Laurie Scott becomes infrastructure minister

Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MPP Laurie Scott was named Minister of Infrastructure, switching portfolios with Monte McNaughton, who took over the Minister of Labour position that Scott had occupied since June of 2018. "One of the first things I look forward to pushing for in my new portfolio is the expansion of the broadband network, bringing 21st century service to rural areas," Scott said.

July

Fisher faces ups and downs of cycling journey

Bruce Fisher completed a weeklong cycling journey July 3 to 9, battling intense heat, to get to Courtright, Ont. from Minden Hills, raising money for the Haliburton County Red Wolves Special Olympics team. Because of the heat, he had

to skip about 100 kilometres of the trip and encountered several other obstacles along the way. However, his efforts brought in nearly \$5,000, which he was happy with.

20-year plan sets new housing goals

A new housing master plan for Haliburton County and the City of Kawartha Lakes called for the creation of 5,500 new housing units between the two municipalities in the next 22 years. That would mean 100 per year created with CKL and 40 per year in Haliburton County. The units need not be newly constructed, but could be created on redeveloped properties or include spaces such as secondary suites in existing detached homes. There are a number of funding programs related to housing including to help with renovations and secondary suites.

Festival of the August Moon cancelled

Minden's Festival of the August Moon was cancelled, but organizers said they were hoping to renew it in 2020. More volunteers, preferably younger ones, were needed. It would have been the ninth year for the Japanese-inspired event, which featured paper lanterns painted in memory of loved ones.

Cottage electricity bills to climb

The Ontario Energy Board, which is the province's energy regulator, pushed for the elimination of the seasonal rate billing class, traditionally applied to all cottage properties. Without the seasonal billing class, cottages would then be billed under either medium-density or low-density, the latter being more expensive since it entails higher delivery costs. Hydro One asked that OEB consider alternative options for seasonal residents.

Girls found safe in Algonquin Park

Two teenage girls who were reported missing in Algonquin Park on July 12 were discovered safe by the OPP's canine unit on July 15. They had made it about a quarter of the way to their destination when they realized they were lost. They stopped and stayed where they were, which is what survival experts say is the best practice. They rationed their food and water, had a tent and other camping equipment. The search involved the OPP's emergency response team, park wardens, the Ontario Search and Rescue Volunteer Association, an OPP helicopter and MNR float plane.

Feds commit to EORN project

The long-awaited announcement that the federal government would contribute funding to the Eastern Ontario Regional Network's cell gap project happened in early July, meaning that all the funding was finally in place for the project to proceed. It will provide mobile broadband internet to areas of eastern Ontario that has no or poor service, including parts of Haliburton County. A federal contribution of \$71 million matches the same amount from the province. \$10 million comes from the municipalities that make up the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (which includes Haliburton County) and the remaining \$61 million comes from the mobile service provider companies.

Site plan approved for affordable housing

Minden Hills council entered into a site plan agreement

June

Township denied large grant for arena project

Minden Hills was not approved for a \$1-million grant – one of the grants the township applied for in hopes of offsetting the cost of the arena renewal project. A staff report from community services director Mark Coleman said he thought the grant favours retrofits over new builds and the arena project was 80 per cent new. The grant was not part of the budget, but would have decreased the size of the 30-year debenture the township is taking out to pay for the arena.

Layoffs at TLDSB

Some 70 support staff at Trillium Lakelands District School Board representing 55 full-time positions, received layoff notices amid reduced funding from the Ministry of Education. On June 10, the Canadian Union of Public Employees announced that a number of its members including educational assistants, clerical and custodial staff were informed they'd be losing their jobs. In September, a CUPE representative said that about half of the positions had been reinstated.

Bluegrass festival cancelled

The summer's Minden Hills Bluegrass Festival was cancelled by organizers. It was scheduled for July 18 through 20, but due to low advance ticket sales, the Rotary Club of Minden decided to cancel. The festival had been hosted for eight years in Minden. The Rotary Club thought it would be too financially risky to go forward.

Track team impresses at OFSAA Eastern Regionals

Several athletes from HHSS competed on June 6 to 8 in Guelph at the OFSAA provincial championships in track and field. Many high school athletes qualified and competed in various events.

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Jim Smith drives from the start of his race at the 2019 Open Canoe Slalom Nationals and North American Championships on Friday, July 19 at the Minden Wild Water Preserve. The Gull River was busy with spectators and supporters for the open canoe paddlers, during training and competition from July 19 to 21. This event was hosted by Whitewater Ontario and the Minden Wild Water Preserve. /DARREN LUM Staff



with the Haliburton Kawartha Lakes Housing Corporation for a second phase of the affordable housing project off Parkside Street near the arena. The three-storey, 21-unit building is the second phase of the affordable housing complex known as Pinegrove Place. Its first phase, a one-storey, 12-unit building, opened to residents in the summer of 2017.

Council foregoes Hawk Lake transfer station

When Algonquin Highlands township closes the Hawk Lake landfill in a couple years’ time, the site will be shut down, meaning residents will need to travel to nearby landfills at Maple Lake or Pine Springs. Council discussed the fate of the landfill at their July 18 meeting. The site is nearing the end of its life and is not suitable for expansion. The cost of converting to a seasonal transfer station was estimated at \$409,000, or \$427,000 for a year-round transfer station. Issues of safety and liability played into the decision making. The Hawk Lake landfill received 18 per cent of the township’s total landfill traffic.

Man drowns at Three Brothers Falls

A 40-year-old man from Waterford, Ont., drowned on July 26 at Three Brothers Falls in Minden Hills. He was kayaking with an eight-year-old girl when they capsized. Police

said the girl made it to shore, but the man did not resurface. OPP, along with the Haliburton County paramedic service and Minden Hills Fire Department attended. The man was pulled from the water by first responders and pronounced deceased. Neither the man nor the girl was wearing a life jacket, police said.

August

Couple thankful for support following house fire

Sharon and Rob Luke were on their dock on Aug. 5 when they found out that their house, off of Horseshoe Lake Road, was on fire. The fire was too hot and there was too much smoke to salvage much, and the couple ended up standing on a neighbour’s property watching their house burn. Sharon praised the fire department for their quick arrival and their success in containing the fire. She said the community had been generous, stepping up to help out or to say a kind word. No injuries were reported.

Municipal funding cuts on the way

The provincial government will proceed with funding cuts in 2020, Premier Doug Ford confirmed at the Association of Municipalities conference in Ottawa in August. The cuts will come in the areas of public health and childcare and will be effective Jan. 1, 2020. “There is little doubt that all of us are going to be hit with changes and, in all likelihood higher taxes,” Warden Liz Danielsen said, naming health care, ambulance, long-term care and housing as causes for concern.

County to buy Minden daycare

The County of Haliburton purchased the daycare centre in Minden, which will continue to operate under the auspices of Compass Early Learning and Care and undergo a major expansion. County council convened for a special meeting on the topic Aug. 14, authorizing the municipality to proceed with the purchase for \$2. The facility, located on Prentice Street, had been previously run by OEYC. In 2018, parents whose children attended the facility received a letter notifying them that service would be terminated one week later, putting families under intense pressure. It was at that time that Compass stepped in to take over.

Police patrolling landfills in Algonquin Highlands

The Township of Algonquin Highlands asked the OPP for increased patrolling of its landfill sites after a number of incidents involving the harassment of attendants. “There have been increased incidents of illegal dumping, failure to pay applicable fees, dumping without authorization, damage to property, theft, and other bylaw infractions,” a press release from the township reads.

Organizers reaffirm purpose behind Minden Pride

While the kickoff to the 2019 Minden Pride was a jubilant celebration, it also came with a reminder of why the event is held in the first place. Just days prior to the start of the event, someone cut a Minden Pride banner off the Logger’s Crossing footbridge in town. Organizer David Rankin said that more than 12,000 people read about it online and hundreds sent written support for Minden Pride. Councillor Jennifer Hughey said that Minden Hills was a caring community and that the event promoted inclusion.

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The new Minden arena under construction on Aug. 12. The \$12.5-million project, which also includes a gymnasium with walking track, is scheduled to be completed before the 2020/21 ice season. / CHAD INGRAM Staff

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Michelle Kerry and three-year-old Megan from Peterborough laughed throughout the ups and downs of the elephant ride on the midway at the Kinmount Fair during Labour Day weekend. /SUE TIFFIN Staff



Heaven finishes second in freestyle at 2019 Championships

Coleman Heaven's podium finish was a first for Minden in recent history at the 2019 Canoe Kayak Whitewater National Championship held Aug. 14 to 18 at the Minden Wild Water Preserve. Heaven, who grew up in the Highlands, entered the nationals with the aim to make it to the podium after placing fourth in 2018. He scored a best score of 260, edging out third place finisher Luke Pomeroy by 10 points, but shy of first place winner Marc-Antoine D'Avignon, who finished with 370.

Hydro One presents counter-proposal on seasonal rate elimination

Hydro One submitted a plan to the Ontario Energy Board that would see rates for seasonal residences increase \$65 per year, rather than the \$1,000 increase expected from the energy regulator's plan to scrap the seasonal rate class for cottage properties. Hydro One appealed to customers to get involved.

Seagull mitigation proving effective, township says

Measures the Township of Minden Hills has undertaken to control the seagull population at and near Scotch Line landfill proved effective, staff reported at the township's Aug. 29 meeting. In September of 2018, council voted to hire a company to remove eggs and nests and cull some birds (typically the messenger gulls, which take information about food sources back to the flock). Last year as many as 1,000 gulls could be spotted at the landfill at one time. The cost for the company's services for one year was about \$35,000. The landfill had also been cleaned up to remove food sources for the birds. Staff said there seemed to be far fewer gulls in the area following the mitigation project.

September

Dorset library branch transitions to depot

The Dorset branch of the Haliburton County Public Library was converted to a library depot on Sept. 1 with library staff hosting workshops on the transition. The branch had been open just eight hours a week and had much lower circulation numbers than other branches. The township issued a community survey in the summer of 2018, the majority of respondents indicating they supported turning the space where the branch had been into a multi-purpose community hub space. Dorset residents are still able to place book orders and pick them up at the location, though the physical books are no longer housed on site.

Protesters demand action on climate change

A group of students and community members joined together on County Road 21 outside the high school in Haliburton on Sept. 20 demanding action on climate change as part of the Global Climate Strike. Dozens of people joined the protest, though there was some frustration that there were too few young people out, with a large group of older community members filling out the ranks. The students who came out said they were worried about the future of the planet and the prospects for their generation and the generations to come.

CUPE begins work-to-rule

On Sept. 30, CUPE members including education assis-

tants, clerical staff, custodians and library staff across the province began work-to-rule after contract negotiations with the provincial government failed to reach a deal. Job action came from a desire to protect educational services for students, CUPE said, listing the closure of school libraries during student lunch breaks because of too few workers, school cleaning cuts, educational assistants having to stretch their time between too many students, and communications with parents deteriorating with fewer secretaries.

Classroom changes leave parents and students unsettled

Parents of students at Archie Stouffer Elementary School said they and their children went through a whirlwind of emotions for about two weeks as they anticipated reorganization of classes for kindergarten and Grade 7/8 students. Thirty-five more students than projected needed to be accommodated, which included seven additional students in junior kindergarten. In total 116 students, or 27 per cent of the student population at ASES, was involved in a classroom shift.

County to draft RFP for governance review

During a special meeting on Sept. 6, county councillors instructed staff to draft a request for proposals for a service delivery and governance review of the local governments. Councillors had been discussing the possibility of such a review throughout 2019. The study will look at the delivery of services and also government structure and provide recommendations.

October

Deal struck with CUPE

In early October it seemed likely schools would be closed with a looming strike by CUPE workers, however, negotiations over the weekend of Oct. 5 and 6 led to a tentative deal. "From what I do know, it's a fair deal," Bill Campbell, president of CUPE Local 997 said. The next layer of bargaining – local bargaining – is still to take place.

Riding re-elects MP Jamie Schmale

The voters of Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock again chose Jamie Schmale to represent them on Parliament Hill following the federal election on Oct. 21. The incumbent Conservative MP defeated challengers Judi Forbes (Liberal), Barbara Doyle (NDP), Elizabeth Fraser (Green) and Gene Balfour (People's Party). "We worked hard, we pushed hard to the finish line ... and because of each and every one of you, we kept this riding Conservative blue," Schmale told his supporters during a party at The Cat and the Fiddle in Lindsay on election night. Results of Student Vote indicated that, if they were able to vote, the students at HHSS would have chosen Schmale as well. In order of preference, the students voted for Schmale, Doyle, Fraser, Forbes and Balfour.

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The Red Hawks battled the weather and their opponents, the Holy Cross Hurricanes, during Kawartha Rugby League action on Tuesday, Oct. 1 at the Gary G. Brohman Athletic Field in Haliburton. /DARREN LUM Staff



Little wins big at Kawartha

HHSS cross-country runner Isaac Little captured the Kawartha senior boys title during a muddy and challenging six-kilometre race at the Ganaraska Forest on Oct. 16. Logan Heaven, a first-year senior, finished eighth with Brendan Coumbs, Jacon Dobson and Jonas Moghini putting in strong performances. Overall, the team placed second. Nick Phippen took third place for junior boys in the five kilometre race.

Arena fundraising goal set at \$750,000

The fundraising committee for the Minden Hills arena project set the goal for its fundraising campaign at \$750,000. Mark Coleman, community services director, told council at an Oct. 10 meeting that the committee decided it was a realistic target. The money will be used for "value-added items that enhance the project outcomes and to potentially offset some of the financing costs of the project."

Field hockey team wins Kawartha

The Red Hawks varsity field hockey team were queens of Kawartha on Oct. 15 with a 1-0 win over the Mustangs of Crestwood. Defeating St. Peter Catholic Secondary School in the semi-finals pitted them against the Mustangs in the final.

Spike in opioid overdoses, deaths in 2018

There was a surge in opioid-related overdoses and deaths in the area served by the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit in 2018. During an Oct. 23 meeting, Haliburton County councillors received a presentation on the Haliburton, Kawartha Lakes, Northumberland Drug Strategy which highlighted 222 suspected drug overdose-related ER visits, which includes opioids and other drugs, among HKPR residents in 2018. In 2018, there were 29 hospitalizations related to opioid use, and 20 deaths from January to September – nearly 2.5 times higher than the same period in 2017.

Cross-country runners head to OFSAA

Red Hawks cross-country runners Isaac Little and Nick Phippen each placed third in their age categories at COSSA in October, earning them a place in the provincials in Sudbury. The athletes said they were excited to represent their school and town. Haliburton resident and student at Lakefield College School, Evan Armstrong, also earned a spot at OFSAA, placing second in the novice field at the CISAA cross-country championships. Armstrong would go on to place 68th, Phippen 144th and Little 110th in their respective categories.

Lake association asks council to revisit landfill decision

The Halls and Hawk Property Owners' Association asked Algonquin Highlands council to revisit its decision to close the Hawk Lake landfill in two years' time, converting it to a transfer station instead, but council said it would stand by its decision. During an Oct. 17 meeting, members of HHPOA filled the gallery as president Peter Dadzis asked council to reconsider and put at least a seasonal transfer station in. He said the association had concerns about safety and traffic on Braeloch Road as residents take their waste to Maple Lake and said that for some users, the extra half-hour of roundtrip would be difficult.

HHHS receives \$99,000 in funding

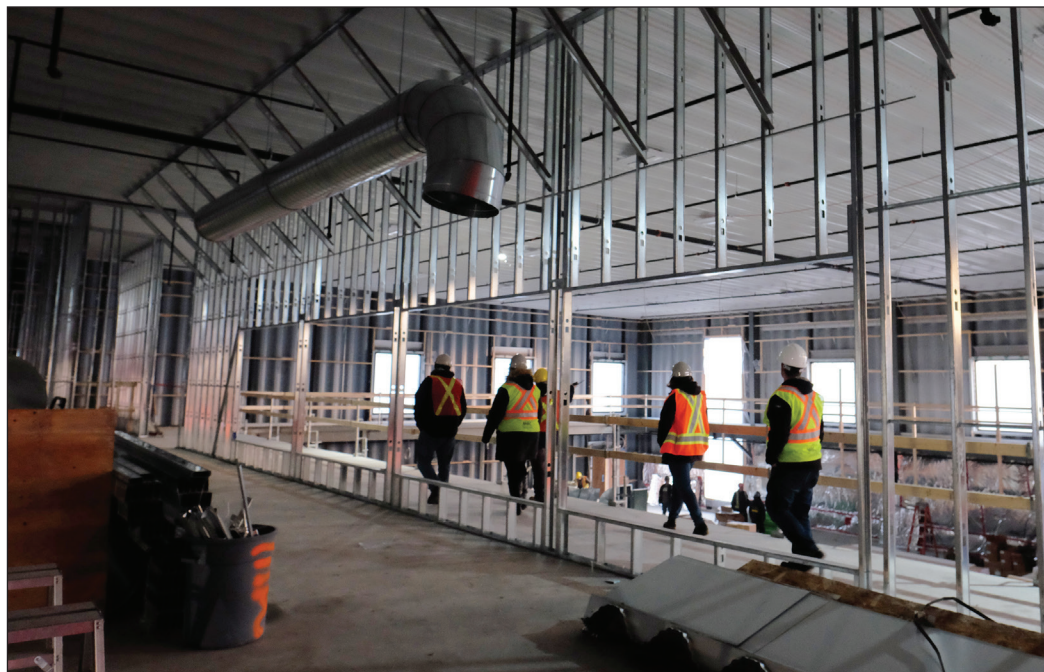
On Oct. 17, the Ministry of Health announced \$68 million in funding for small- and medium-sized hospitals across the province. Haliburton Highlands Health Services received funding of \$99,000, which CEO Carolyn Plummer said in her October report would "help support the continued operation of our hospital services for this fiscal year."

County declines declaration of climate emergency

Haliburton County councillors decided not to make an official declaration that climate change is an emergency during an Oct. 23 meeting, but did pass a lengthy resolution noting the work the county is undertaking to combat climate change and pledging to continue that work. A number of municipal governments have followed the federal government's lead in declaring climate change as an emergency. Councillors said they did not deny the reality of climate change, but thought it was early for them given they had just hired someone on staff to co-ordinate climate change work.

Two titles for Koehler at dryland dog race

Karen Koehler and her dog Buncho picked up titles at the 10th annual Bristol Dryland National Canadian Championship Dog Race held Oct. 25 to 27. She won first in the one-dog bikejor for women in her age group and first in the one-dog scooter race.



A group is seen through the unfinished walls of the new fitness room during the Minden Hills Community Centre Renewal Project Open House and Tour on Tuesday, Nov. 26 in Minden. The arena will also include a gymnasium. /DARREN LUM Staff

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November

Three Haliburton County residents charged in theft and drug ring

Detectives were investigating a number of suspects in a multi-jurisdictional theft and drug operation regarding thefts and drugs connected to Haliburton County, Muskoka and Bancroft. "To date, officers have recovered skid steers, trailers, boats and snowmobiles among other items," a press release from the OPP said. A 38-year-old Minden Hills resident and a 28-year-old Minden Hills resident were arrested and charged with multiple offences including possession of prohibited weapons and property obtained by crime over \$5,000. A 42-year-old Dysart resident was arrested and charged with multiple counts of theft.

Dorset Tower project would cost \$4.5 million

The Township of Algonquin Highlands decided to apply for a grant to cover more than \$3 million of a nearly \$4.5-million project at the Dorset Tower. Councillors agreed at a Nov. 7 meeting that the township would make the application. The project would entail roads work, expansion of parking areas, landscaping work, new lighting, replacement of the tower's cupola, construction of a washroom building, an accessible viewing platform, and eating areas including a picnic pavilion, among other things.

Elementary teachers begin work-to-rule

Local elementary teachers began work-to-rule job action on Nov. 26 as central contract talks between the Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario and the provincial government stalled. Key issues at the table according to ETFO were the need to address violence in schools, supports for special education, class size and class structure, transparent hiring practices and preserving all-day kindergarten.

More than 11,000 residences without power

Much of Haliburton County went dark on Nov. 24 for the full day during a scheduled outage for upgrade work to modernize the electricity grid and replace aging infrastructure. Nearly 100 Hydro One power line workers installed four smart switches and replaced 24 wood poles throughout the county during what was a chilly day for many without power. Some community members raised issue with the company choosing a day in late November for the work, as temperatures are quite low during that time. There was also some confusion around which homes would be without power.

Salvage Kings feature rare B-A collection from Minden

Viewers watching Salvage Kings, a TV show featuring demolition and salvage teams, one from Priestly Demolition Inc., on Nov. 10 caught a glimpse of



Diane Dollo visited a Sneak Peek of the 10th annual Festival of Trees held at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre on Nov. 21. The community program and fundraiser was open from Nov. 22 to 24 and offered more than 50 trees, gift baskets, gift certificates and wreaths in a festive raffle. /SUE TIFFIN Staff

Minden in a segment featuring a rare British-American oil collection that once belonged to Kawartha Dairy businessman Don Crowe, who died in 2017. The team travelled to the quonset hut on the Crowe property on Highway 35 to collect what was purchased from the Crowe family. "If anybody was going to take it, it would be [Vic Priestly] that he [Don] would want to have it," Don's son Craig said.

Pickup driver dies in 118 crash

Local resident Justin Daniels died and another man was airlifted to hospital in Toronto following a collision on Highway 118 near St. Peter's Road on Nov. 20. Four vehicles were involved in the collision, including a cement truck, two pickup trucks and an SUV. The highway was closed for a number of hours while police investigated. Daniels was remembered as a hardworking family man with a love for music.

Davis, longtime local politician, dies

Bill Davis, former county warden and longtime member of Dysart et al council, died on Nov. 30 in his 78th year. He was most recently deputy reeve, retiring from politics in 2014. He was involved in many pursuits in the Highlands during his lifetime and had been a paramedic for Dysart et al as well as a dispatcher for the Ministry of Health.

Land trust to map wetland with climate action funding

The Haliburton Highlands Land Trust announced in November that it had received a grant for more than \$36,000 from Environment and Climate Change Canada to map and evaluate the Kendrick Creek Wetland Complex with the goal of having the area designated a provincially significant wetland. The Fred and Pearl Barry Wetland reserve, which is one of the land trust's properties, is at the top of Kendrick Creek and is part of the wider 849-hectare complex.

December

Teachers conduct two one-day strikes

Members of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation ramped up their pressure on the provincial government with two one-day strikes during December: one on Dec. 4 and another on Dec. 11. The secondary school teachers say provincial government proposals would drastically change the education system, referencing increased class sizes and the introduction of mandatory online learning as sticking points during negotiations. The teachers also asked for an annual cost-of-living wage increase. Minister of Education Stephen Lecce said the government was reasonable in negotiations and said the OSSTF pay and benefits requests were too expensive for the taxpayer.

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Students sang, danced, acted and shared some cheer with a full crowd of parents, family and community members at the Archie Stouffer Elementary School Christmas concert, held during the day on Dec. 13.
/SUE TIFFIN Staff



tgency fund, it was projected it would run a deficit of more than \$66,500 and an additional \$183,000 in contingency was being requested, those amounts combined constituting \$250,000.

Staff member Mark Coleman told council part of the reason for the overrun was the cost for many subtrades came in higher than expected.

Septic reinspection program results in remedial action, public awareness

Of 1,264 septic systems inspected in Algonquin Highlands between June and September, 31 per cent had visible code contraventions and were issued remedial actions, council heard in December. The 396 septic systems that required a remedial action letter had challenges including solids occupying 33 per cent of the tank volume or more, vegetation needing to be removed from the bed, cracked, broken or missing tank lids; metal tanks; outhouses and composting toilets that weren't vermin-proof.

More renters spending more on rent

An updated housing and homelessness plan for Haliburton County and the City of Kawartha Lakes shows that people who rent living accommodations are spending more and more of their income on those accommodations. County council-

lors heard a presentation on and accepted an updated plan from the manager of humans services for CKL. The plan showed that between 2011 and 2016, the percentage of renters in Haliburton County spending more than 30 per cent of their income on rent grew from 38.7 per cent to 49.5, meaning that almost half of renters in the county are living in housing that is not considered affordable for them.

Algonquin Highlands office closes following threat

Algonquin Highlands staff were sent home on Dec. 13 after the township received a threat on social media. Police were contacted. The municipal office, library, public works garage and community centre were closed for the day.

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Coleman leaves for Bruce County

Minden Hills community services director Mark Coleman announced he was leaving the township, taking a similar job for the Municipality of Brockton in Bruce County. His new position was to begin Jan. 6, 2020. Coleman had been in his role since 2014, most recently overseeing the township's \$13-million arena project, in which he was heavily involved.

Council approves extra funds for the arena

Minden Hills councillors approved additional contingency funds for the township's \$12.5-million arena project, with the project facing an overrun. At their Dec. 12 meeting, councillors approved an additional \$250,000 in contingency funds for the project, which has a budget of some \$12.5 million. While there is currently still more than \$200,000 in the con-

Councillors call out inequity in flood funding

During a Dec. 18 meeting of county council, councillors received a report from the province's special advisor on flooding, who conducted a review of the flooding events in Ontario in 2019. Councillors expressed frustration that millions of dollars for flood mitigation had gone to a neighbouring municipality, while none had come to Haliburton County.

Minden Hills to close Irondale landfill

The Township of Minden Hills decided it would close the Irondale landfill in September of 2020. The landfill had many issues over the years including non-compliance with provincial regulations and residents dumping garbage along a nearby roadway when the site is closed. It also had the lowest traffic volume of any of the township's landfills.

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Hawks rinks advance to Gore Regionals

All four Haliburton Highlands Secondary School curling entrants advanced to the next round of the Ontario School Curling Provincial Competition after competing in the zone level hosted by HHSS and the Haliburton Curling Club on Saturday, Dec. 21 in Haliburton.

Five teams entered in the competition, formerly known as the Gore Mutual Provincial Curling Championships. Besides the Red Hawks teams competing, the Falcons of Fenelon Falls Secondary School finished with a pair of wins and advanced as the A finalist from the girls' field.

"Having all four teams advance is a great accomplishment that comes as a result of the great support of coach Hugh Nichol at the Haliburton Curling Club and principal Chris Boulay at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School," said Darrell Dobson, one of the Hawks' coaches.

Hawks boys' teams compete against each other

The senior Dobson team of Jacob Dobson, skip, Owen Nicholls, lead, and Corin Gervais, second, pushed through a day of adversity and illness. They were down a player with vice Liam Little absent, "and two of the members were quite sick." They faced the junior Red Hawks boys' Boore team of Nate

Boore, skip, Marcus Harrison, lead, Cole Boisvert, second, and Logan Malette, vice, who played well and came up with the win, 6-5. Both teams advanced to the regional competition.

B finalist and B runner-ups for girls' Red Hawks

In the first game, the Fenelon Falls rink beat the senior Red Hawks girls' Byers team of Jessica Byers, skip, Hannah Lewis, lead, Mackenzie Tidey, vice, and Savannah Byers, second, 7-0. In the second game, the Fenelon Falls rink beat the junior girls' Parish team of Holly Parish, skip, Jocelyn Chumbley, vice, Kayla Switzer, second, and Harmony Moher, lead, 7-5 to become the A finalist. In the third game, the Byers team came out with a win against the Parish team to advance as the B finalists. The junior girls also advance as the B runner-ups.

All four Haliburton teams advance to the Gore Regionals, Feb. 1 and 2, in Richmond Hill.

Later this year, HHSS and the Haliburton Curling Club will host the Central Ontario Secondary School Association championship on March 9.

-Staff
With files from Darrell Dobson



Haliburton Highlands Secondary School's Mackenzie Tidey, vice, throws a rock for the Byers team during the Ontario School Curling Provincial Competition zone level action on Saturday, Dec. 21 at the Haliburton Curling Club. Formerly known as the Gore Mutual Provincial Curling Championships, the event was co-hosted by HHSS and the local club. /DARREN LUM Staff



Red Hawks curler Corin Gervais readies to release the rock.

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3				6		5		2
4				9				6
	5	6				9		7
5				2		1		
					5			
	6					3	7	
2				5	8			
	4							
8			1					

Level: Advanced

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Answers on page 20

UPCOMING
**Community
Events**

Want to get your event in Community Calendar? It's free! Contact Pat at classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

Taoist Tai Chi - Open Houses

Haliburton - Haliburton United Church
Thursday, Jan. 9, 10 a.m. to noon
Kinmount - Galway Community Hall
Thursday, Jan. 9, 10 a.m. to noon
Stanhope - Stanhope Community Center
Friday, Jan. 10, 10 a.m. to noon
For more information: contact Wilma at 705 457-5829

Mike Stevens: Harmonica Virtuoso

When: Thursday, Jan. 9, 6:30 p.m.
Where: Highland Hills United Church, 21 New Castle Street, Minden
What: Breathe in the world. Breathe out the music. In this energetic and interactive family performance with awe inspiring harmonica virtuoso Mike Stevens, discover that music is inside and around us all the time. Presented by Razzamataz Kids' Shows! For more info and tickets visit www.razzamataz.ca/shows/ or contact Dawn Mole-Hurd 705-854-0728

**Haliburton Highlands Secondary School
Annual Exhibition**

"Spaced Out"
When: Friday January 10 4:30 to 6 p.m.
Where: Rails End Gallery
www.railsendgallery.com

Haliburton Ladies Auxiliary Sunday Breakfast

When: Sunday, January 12, 2020, 9:30 to 1:00 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion, Main Hall
Cost: \$6. Menu: Eggs or pancakes, bacon or sausage, hash browns, toast, orange juice, tea/coffee.

**Minden District Fur Harvesters Annual
Winter Workshop**

When: Sunday, Jan. 12, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Where: Minden Community Centre
Fur handling demos, fur buyer on site, trapping supplies, baked goods, lots of door prizes and more.
Admission \$2 for adults, under 12 are free. Non perishable food items also gratefully accepted for the local food bank.

Enviro-Café – Wetlands and Climate Change

When: Tuesday, Jan. 14, 7:30 p.m.
Where: Haliburton United Church, 10 George St. Haliburton
Presented by Environment Haliburton and the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust.
Join Paul Heaven, wildlife biologist/consultant, for an interactive presentation about wetlands and their important role in mitigating climate change.
For more information contact Susan Hay, hayfield@tcc.on.ca 705-457-9239. Funding support from Environment and Climate Change Canada.

The Highland Trio in the Clubroom

When: Saturday, Jan. 18, 3 to 6 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion, Clubroom
Cost: \$5.00 cover charge for non-members
*50/50 draw at 6 p.m.

**Minden Agricultural Society, Annual General
Meeting**

When: Saturday, Jan. 18, 12 p.m.
Where: Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle Street, Minden

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Sexual Health Clinic

When: Wednesday, Jan. 22, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
The clinic provides clients with confidential access to cervical screening, low-cost birth control, pregnancy testing and sexual health teaching. Testing and treatment of sexually transmitted infections are also provided. For more information, locations or to make an appointment, call the Health Unit at 1-866-888-4577, ext. 1205

Hospice Community Support Services

Eventide: Community Conversation on Living and Dying Well
When: Monday, Jan. 27, 1 to 3 p.m.
Where: Dorset Recreation Centre Hospice
Pull up a chair, grab a coffee and join in the conversation. Open discussion about life to end of life journey. Supported group chat to ask questions about issues of concern to you in your journey. Facilitated discussion to develop and share strategies on living and dying well.



Taking a break to create

Left, Rob Muir, branch assistant, demonstrates the 3D pen for Kai Clendening, 4, at a mini-makers session held Jan. 2 at Minden library.

Below, Kai Clendening creates with a 3D pen at the first Mini-Makers session of the year, held at Minden library on Jan. 2. Participants created sculptures using the 3D pen - a tool that allows users to essentially 'draw in the air.' The next mini-makers session at the Minden library takes place Jan. 22 at 3:30 p.m. and is free of charge./SUE TIFFIN Staff



**Tuesday evening winners at
Minden Curling Club**

'A' Division winners and 'League' Champions:
skip - Doug Hall vice - Ed Copeland second - Mike Clewlow Lead - Rick Wood



'B' Division winners: skip - Jeff Cook vice - Iain Kay second - Dave Tranter Lead - Andy Forrest



'C' Division Winners: skip - Andy MacMillan vice - Bruce Verstege second - John Granger Lead - Tyler Stewart



Bowling Scores

Tuesday Afternoon Bowling Scores, Dec. 17, 2019

Men

High Average – Claude Cote/Ken Thompson – 193

High Single – Ken Thompson – 267

High Single H/C – Ken Thompson – 297

High Triple– Ken Thompson – 723

High Triple H/C– Ken Thompson – 807

Women

High Average – Chris Cote – 184

High Single – Chris Cote – 207

High Single H/C – Carole Cameron – 255

High Triple – Chris Cote – 499

High Triple H/C – Lynda Weir – 676

Haliburton Red Wolves Bowling Scores

Emily Boccitto 215, Sarah Hudson 168, Casey Heley 163,
Russell Whetstone 159, Carrie Crego 149, Skylar Pratt 144

SUDOKU SOLUTION

3	8	9	4	6	7	5	1	2
4	2	7	5	9	1	8	3	6
1	5	6	2	8	3	9	4	7
5	3	4	7	2	6	1	8	9
7	1	8	9	3	5	6	2	4
9	6	2	8	1	4	3	7	5
2	7	3	6	5	8	4	9	1
6	4	1	3	7	9	2	5	8
8	9	5	1	4	2	7	6	3



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650 OBITUARIES



In Loving Memory of
Barbara Elizabeth Ayres (nee Davis)
Born 14 August 1939 - Died December 17, 2019 (age 80)

Growing up on Carey Road in Toronto and Marydon Crescent in Agincourt – and with summers spent at the cottage on Lake Kushog since 1947 - Barb Ayres graduated from the University of Toronto (Economics) in 1961. While spending her school breaks working in Banff she met and fell in love with Reg. They married in May of 1962 and started a family. During the 1970's Barb's volunteer work culminated with her serving a 3 year term as President of Big Brothers of Metro Toronto. Following this she moved into a successful 18 year career as a Real Estate Agent with Royal LePage in North York. Reg and Barb retired to the cottage on Lake Kushog in 2003 and became active members of the local community as members of the Minden curling club, Hospital Auxiliary as well as various golf and bridge groups. She will be missed by many.

Daughter of the late Dewitt and Mildred Davis of Agincourt and sister of the late Dr. Tait Davis of Kushog Lake, Algonquin Highlands, Barb is survived by Reg, her loving husband of 57 years; daughter Anita (Toronto) and son Stephen, devoted daughter-in-law Kim and grandson's Oliver and Lachlan (all of Sydney, Australia). Although she has many friends, Barb wished to single out Elizabeth Hogle with whom she has shared many adventures since they first met at the age of 6; and Marg Kus of British Columbia for their support, love and friendship over the decades.

Kim and Stephen have been so inspiring in putting their own busy lives in Australia on hold in order to be at Barb's side over her final months and weeks. And having her adoring grandchildren also fly all the way from Australia gave Barb incredible joy and comfort in her final moments as did having her daughter Annie at her side.

The family wishes to thank the Kingston Cancer Centre – where Barb had recently started a new cancer trial - for their care over the last 12 months, as well as Beth Archibald and the palliative care unit at Haliburton Highlands Health Services (in Haliburton Village). It was Beth and her team who provided the support which made possible Barb's wish to spend her final days at the cottage overlooking her beloved Lake Kushog – a place she has called home since playing along its beautiful shores as a young child and which now flies the Canadian flag at half-mast in her honour.

In accordance with Barb's wishes there will be no funeral or memorial service. And in lieu of flowers the family asks that donations be made to the University Hospitals Kingston Foundation (Kingston Cancer Centre) or the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) and can be arranged be through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



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560 ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Before I go,
a note to all those
who used to be my friends,
in the Minden area.*

*This is a long time coming,
but I would like to apologize to
you, and you know
who you are, for losing your
trust and respect.*

I am sorry,
Tom Moffat

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In Loving Memory of

Clayton Murdock Cameron

Passed away on Saturday, January 4, 2020 with his loving family by his side. At the age of 66.

Beloved husband of Birdeena (nee Legg) for over 43 years. Loving father of Elizabeth Cameron, Luke Cameron, and Ashley (Jay) Hayward. Loving grandpa of Ashlyn and Gladabelle. Dear brother of Archie (Mary), Susan (Jim) Peirce, Bill (Brenda) and predeceased by his sister Bessie. Beloved son of the late Angus and Gloria Cameron, step-son of the late Maurice Weight, and son-in-law of the late Edith and Earl Legg. Lovingly remembered by his family and friends.

Friends are invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0 on Thursday from 2-4 and 7-9 pm. Then to the Pioneer Baptist Church, 7553 Hwy 35, Norland, ON K0M 2L0 on Friday, January 10, 2020 for visiting from 12:00 noon until the time of the Funeral Service to Celebrate Clayton's Life at 1:00 pm. Reception to follow in the Church Hall. Spring Internment at the Pine Grove Cemetery, Norland.

Memorial Donations to the Canadian Cancer Society and Canadian Diabetes Association would be appreciated by the family.



www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com



In Loving Memory of

Edward Paul Litwin

Nov. 17, 1960 – Dec. 25, 2019

Ed passed away early Christmas morning. His favorite day of the year.

Ed will be tremendously missed by his loving partner in marriage and life Lynda. He was a very proud father of Tim and Alexandra. Ed leaves behind

his beloved Mother Vera, Sisters Janet & Bill Smith, Linda & Greg Partola, Brother Alex and Lidia Litwin. He was the entertaining uncle of Jeffrey & May Smith, Jason Smith, Tanya Partola & Chris Anteolich, Andy & Tanya Partola, Meagan Martin, Igor Lefter, Tanya Lefter, and Leah Litwin. Ed will be missed by his aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. Ed was predeceased by his father Fred and brother Greg. Ed was a creative builder always incorporating something new in every project. Ed grew up in Toronto then Mississauga and cottaging on Gull Lake. In 2000 the family moved to Minden. Ed embraced the small community and enjoyed many deep friendships. After 57 years of healthy living Ed was diagnosed with terminal cancer. Ed fought the disease and enjoyed over two years of quality living before the disease got the better of him. Huge thanks to the doctors of Hope – Dr. Gonzalo Sapiochin Cantis of UHN and U of T, Dr. Shaqil Kassam of Stonach Regional Cancer Center at Southlake Hosp., Dr. Christina Stephenson and Dr. Nell Thomas of HHFHS. These medical professionals saw the fight in Ed and supported him. Thank you for two and half years with Ed and a peaceful end to his fight.

A celebration of Ed's life will be held at the Dominion Hotel, 113 Bobcaygeon Rd., Minden on Sunday, January 12, 2020 from 2 – 9 with a toast to Ed at 5 p.m. Donations can be made to the Southlake Regional Health Centre - Stronach Cancer Center in recognition of Dr. Shaqil Kassam or to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden K0M 2K0.



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*Our thoughts go wandering,
When daylight fades.
To the land of long ago.
And memory paints the scenes of old,
In the gold of the twilight glow.
We seem to see in the soft dim light,
The faces we loved the best,
And think of them when the sun's last ray,
Goes down in the far off west.*

*Remember Them With Us
The Times
705-286-1288*



Edward Lehman

April 28, 1939 - Dec. 23, 2019

After a long battle with COPD and re-occurring Pneumonia, Ed in his 81 year passed away peacefully on Dec. 23rd 2019 at the Lindsay Ross Memorial Hospital, with family by his side.

Ed was a long time employee of Ontario Hydro stationed in Timmins Ontario. After retiring he moved to Haliburton in the year 2000 where he lived on the North Shore Rd. (Maple Lake). For the past three years he lived at Kawartha Lakes Retirement Residence, Bobcaygeon.

Ed loved the north and in particular living in the Haliburton area. He had a great interest on what was going on in the Haliburton area and how things were or were not changing. He was also a great supporter of local charities that helped those who he considered less fortunate.

In passing Ed leaves behind his brother Robert (Donna), Nephew Darren (Emily), Niece Susan and great nephews Callum, Graham, and great nieces, Mia and Audrey.

We would like to thank the staff of the Haliburton Hospital, Kawartha Lakes Retirement Residence and the Lindsay Ross Memorial hospital for their support over the years.

He will be missed.



In Loving Memory of

Vera Coles (nee Jones)

Passed away peacefully at Hyland Crest Senior Citizens Home, Minden on December 27, 2019, at the age of 95.

Loving wife of Alan Coles (deceased). Loving mother of Diane (Ivor) Thompson, Nan to Claire (Rhys) Jones and Erin (Kevin) Irving. Super Nanny to Olivia, Ava, Max and Myles. Best friend of Josie. Big sister to John (deceased) (Barbara) and Hilary (Graham). Auntie Vera to her nieces and nephews.

Vera was born in Hersham, Surrey, England and grew up in the towns of Weybridge and Thames Ditton. She served briefly in the WRNS during World War II. Vera married Alan in 1947 and moved to Bitteswell, Leicestershire to aid with the resettlement of refugees from the Baltic States. Vera had her daughter in 1952 and ran a shop from her home in the city of Leicester. The family came to Canada in 1957. Vera worked hard in new country, updated her skills and eventually became the office manager for the anaesthetists at Scarborough Centenary Hospital. She retired in 1998 and moved to Haliburton County. She loved her family, her house in the woods, her garden and many rescue pets. Many thanks to the kind people at Haliburton Hospital, Minden and Hyland Crest.

*"Life laughed and moved on unsubdued,
I saw that old succumbed to young
T'was well. My too regretful mood
Died on my tongue"*

Thomas Hardy

Vera's family will have a private celebration of her life. Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) or to Hyland Crest Residents Council would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



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Agnes Reiss

(Resident of Haliburton)

At the residence on Saturday morning, December 28, 2019 in her 80th year. Beloved wife of the late Ludwig Reiss. Loving mother of Margaret of Haliburton. Dear sister of Martina and Christine (Paul), Hans (Walburga), Konrad (Clara) and Josef (Annemarie). Predeceased by her brother Albert. Agnes owned and operated Hilltop Market in Haliburton for many years. She loved to garden, read and make special oils and remedies for anything that ailed you. Most of all, she loved people and had chocolate for those that visited.

Visitation, Funeral Service & Reception

Friends were invited to visit with the family at the HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209 on Sunday afternoon, January 5, 2020 from 12 (Noon) p.m. until time of Funeral Service in the Chapel at 2 p.m. A reception followed in The Community Room. As expressions of sympathy, donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services or the Arthritis Society would be appreciated by the family.

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Monday, January 11, 1993

Student draws date with Drifter

Lindsey Sala is this year's winner in the Derby poster contest

Lindsey Sala will be getting a behind-the-scenes look at the Minden Sled Dog Derby as she spends a day with Drifter, the official derby mascot.

Lindsey is a grade seven student in Tom Dawson's class at Archie Stouffer Elementary School. She is also the winner of this year's derby poster contest.

In addition to a cash prize, Lindsey gets to spend a day of the January 23 and 24 derby with Drifter. She will also be given the use of a sled and dog to enter the Kid and Mutt race on the Sunday of the derby.

The poster contest runs each year in conjunction with the sled dog derby. Lindsey was to have spent this past weekend with Drifter, but her date was postponed when a lack of snow pushed the race back two weeks.

Lindsey's entry was judged against 357 others, said Paul Gauntley, who organized the contest. He said the judges felt her poster best captured the spirit and the colour of the event.

Lindsey's teacher was not surprised by the judges' choice. Mr. Dawson said Lindsey has a flair for art. Several of her recent works adorn the classroom. Gauntley said Lindsey's poster had something special that captured the judges' eyes. He noted that the contest had dozens of outstanding entries, all of which are displayed in storefronts throughout Minden.

In addition to the grand prize, secondary prizes were awarded to the top three posters entered from each grade

(more on page 2)



Lindsey Sala, a grade seven Archie Stouffer student, is the overall winner in this year's Minden Sled Dog Derby poster contest.

Minden dog derby delayed

Flurries.

That's all the weatherman could offer Wednesday and it was far short of the dumping needed to ensure the ninth running of the Minden Sled Dog Derby would go ahead as scheduled.

After a brief look at the trail Wednesday afternoon, organizers made the inevitable decision to postpone the race.

The flip side of the coin, though, is that Minden won't have to wait a full month until the snow date. After the decision was made to postpone, organizers sat down with a calendar and concluded the event could be staged at the end of January rather than mid-February.

The new date for the race is January 23 and 24 which is far superior to the original mid-February snow date.

Trail boss Steve Lougheed said the organizers still have the energy to carry them through another two weeks. If, however, it was postponed for a month, their enthusiasm would have worn thin, he said.

"We can get geared back up in two weeks easier than four or five," said Lougheed. "We still have the enthusiasm."

The new snow date is also better than the original since it does not directly compete with any major races. The February date, on the other hand, would have put Minden's derby in the same time slot as two important races.

The decision to postpone should have come as no surprise. Although there was plenty of snow on the ground up until the weekend, the temperature dropped throughout the day Saturday and rain began to fall late in the evening. The rain

(more on page 3)

Talking trash: Can the county afford to revive waste management plan? Can it afford not to?

Three hours of round-about discussions all distilled down to one plain fact: If Haliburton wants to get serious about waste management it's going to cost a lot of money.

How much? That depends.

How long will it take? That also depends.

What is known is that the county will have to hire a full-time co-ordinator if it plans to revive its waste management masterplan. In addition, the county would have to enlist a consultant to handle a large portion of this task.

Traditionally, the Ministry of the Environment has paid for half the costs associated with such studies, but there is no guarantee that will continue. The only promise the ministry is making right now is that it will pay "up to" 50 per cent of the costs. Considering the cutbacks on all fronts from the

provincial government, "up to" anything provides little comfort.

The county's waste management steering committee met last Thursday in a crowded room on the ground floor of the registry office.

With three representatives from the Ministry of the Environment on hand, they talked about waste cardboard, refunds on liquor bottles, licensing of recycling handlers, chipping brush and dead car batteries.

What they really needed to know, though, was whether the county can afford to put the waste management masterplan back on the rails.

The masterplan was shelved last year for one simple reason: cutbacks had to be made in order to present a budget that would satisfy tax-wary residents. No one openly questioned the need to complete

the masterplan, only the feasibility of pressing ahead in the midst of a recession.

With a new budget just around the corner, the steering committee is again wrestling with the same questions. Can the county afford to put it back in motion? Can it afford not to?

The issue is a double-edged sword. Moving ahead on the masterplan can bring huge savings in the future. However, delaying the process gives county ratepayers a break at a time when they can ill-afford to pay more taxes.

Uncertainty about continued ministry funding and the potential length of this study add a new dimension to the quandary.

Right now in Ontario there are 47 masterplans in

(more on page 2)



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